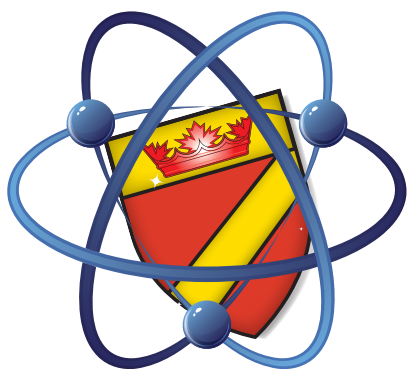


May - June 2013

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:
Canada's National Firearms Association



Around the NFA

Election 2013

by NFA Directors

Nominations for the office of director of Canada's National Firearms Associations closed as of February 15, 2013. Due to circumstances beyond the NFA's control, the process had been necessarily delayed from the fall of 2012. In order to maintain continuity of leadership in the organization, directors are required to stand for alternating nomination/election/re-election for regions having multiple directorships. Please note that each member of Canada's National Firearms Association received a ballot with a return envelope. Directors were elected solely by the membership of the region in which they resided. Only official mailed-in ballots could be accepted. All ballots had to be received no later than March 29, 2013.

For 2013 there were a total of six positions eligible for election, they included one each for British Columbia-Yukon, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland & Labrador-Maritimes. As a result of the untimely death of our dear friend and former NFA Secretary, Mr. Ted Simmermon, there were two positions to be filled for Alberta-NWT-International. In any region electing multiple directors, the individual polling the fewest number of votes is to serve a one year term, whereas the individual polling the highest number of votes serves for a full two-year term.

At the official close of nominations, with no other nominations having been received, President Sheldon Clare, was acclaimed as BC-Yukon director for a two-year term. In Quebec, current director, Phil Simard, was also acclaimed to an additional two-year term. In Ontario, Mr. Charles Zach, a long-time volunteer field officer with Canada's NFA, was also acclaimed as director and will serve a two-year term of office.

Mr. Zach replaces out-going Ontario director and our dear friend, Henry Atkinson. Henry decided to take a step-back from the day-to-day demands of running Canada's largest pro-firearm rights advocacy association and spend a little more time with family and friends. Henry, along with current Executive Vice-President, Blair Hagen and former Vice-President, Communications and current director, Sean Penney, was an instrumental part of the transitional executive that took over following the untimely death of former National President David Tomlinson. We wish Henry well in his retirement and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all of his hard work and decades of dedication to Canada's firearms community and the National Firearms Association.

The most hotly contested elections were those for Alberta-NWT-International and Newfoundland & Labrador-Maritimes. There were four candidates in the Alberta-NWT race, including Mr. Jerrold Lundgard, Mr. Darren Vath, Mr. Dennis Young and Mr. Ernest McKenzie. All four candidates are well-known and respected members of Alberta's firearms community and have long histories of political activism related to firearms law reform and volunteerism. Ultimately the Alberta membership chose Mr. Lundgard and Mr. Young to represent them on the board of directors for 2013. Mr.

Young, having polled the highest number of votes will serve a full two-year term, while Mr. Lundgard will serve a one-year term of office. Congratulations to both new directors!

At this time we'd also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to outgoing Alberta interim-director, Darren Vath, and candidate/head office volunteer Ernest McKenzie for offering themselves for election. It is that kind of self-sacrifice and dedication that helps make our organization so vibrant and relevant today. Both gentlemen stepped-up during a difficult time and selflessly gave of their time and talent to our organization.

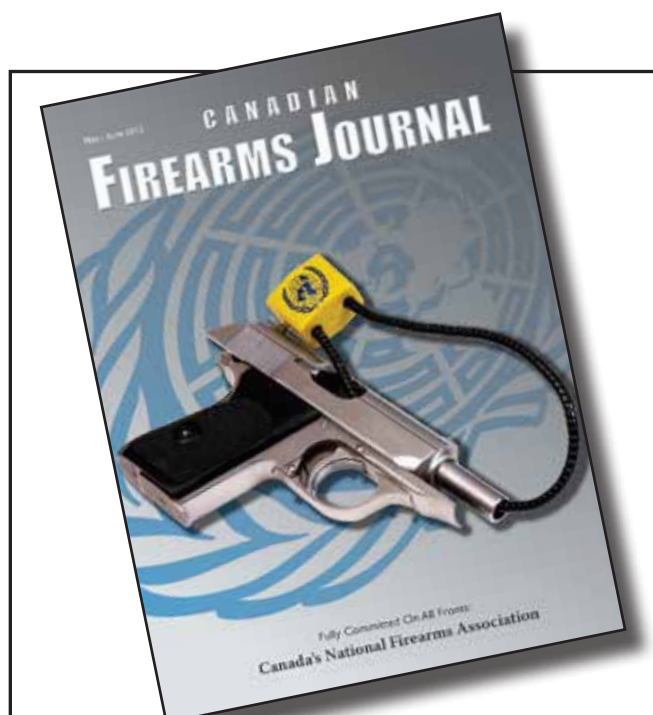
With the election of Mr. Lundgard and Mr. Young, we must also say good-bye to outgoing director, Mr. Ed Lucas. As a former NFA employee, volunteer and much-respected and valued director, Ed was a key member of our board. His insight, wise counsel and larger-than-life presence will be sorely missed around the boardroom table. We must take this opportunity to thank Ed for his years of dedicated service to our organization and wish him every success in his future endeavours.

Finally, we're pleased to announce that current director for Newfoundland & Labrador-Maritimes and Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, Sean Penney, was successfully re-elected to a two-year term. Also contesting the election was well-known IPSC competitor and active member of both the Atlantic Marksmen Association and Musquodoboit Valley Rifle & Revolver Club, Mr. Robert Bracken. Mr. Bracken is to be commended for the campaign he ran and we thank him for becoming so actively engaged in our fight to protect and preserve our firearm rights in Canada.

Thank you to all candidates, directors and members who took the time to exercise their franchise or offer themselves for election. Without you, Canada's National Firearms Association simply could not function. Congratulations to all!

Introducing your National Firearms Association's 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BC-Yukon:	Mr. Sheldon Clare Mr. Blair Hagen
Alberta-NWT-International:	Mr. Dennis Young Mr. Jerrold Lundgard
Saskatchewan:	Mr. Jim Smith
Manitoba-Nunavut:	Mr. Inky Mark
Ontario:	Mr. Bill Rantz Mr. Charles Zach
Quebec:	Mr. Phil Simard Mr. Stephen Buddo
Newfoundland & Labrador-Maritimes:	Mr. Sean Penney



On The Cover

Despite recent domestic set-backs in Canada and the United States, the forces of international civil disarmament march on. The recent adoption of an international arms trade treaty by the General Assembly of the United Nations may very well presage a renewed assault upon our rights as law-abiding gun owners. Official ratification of the UN ATT by Ottawa will bring with it a host of dangers which cannot help but have severe ramifications for the future of gun ownership in Canada. Under the right circumstances Canada's "obligations," as a "responsible" member of the international community, may very well dictate the re-imposition of universal firearms registration; or even completely curtail individual civilian firearms ownership entirely. Canadian gun owners still have time to act. Ratification has yet to take place. The time has come for each of us to stand up and be counted. Please be sure to let our Conservative government know where you stand on this issue!

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



I wish I could share with you more light-hearted news than this, but as expected, the UN General Assembly has just adopted the much-reviled UN Arms Trade Treaty; albeit in a somewhat watered-down version. At its core, however, it essentially remains the same arms trade treaty that Canada's National Firearms Association has been fighting so hard against for years. Once the votes were tallied, there were 3 nays, 23 abstentions, and 154 yays. Sad to say, but Canada's vote is included in that latter number.

The next step in this thinly-veiled exercise in civil disarmament is for member nations to individually ratify it. At this juncture it is difficult to predict whether or not the current Harper government will act to officially adopt the treaty. Even if they don't, the ATT still means bad news for gun owners.

First and foremost, it sets a dangerous precedent. One that will do absolutely nothing to prevent lawless nations or individuals, (i.e., warlords) from using small arms and light weapons to commit further atrocities and mass murder. Instead, legitimate end-users, especially civilians, will see their access to affordable firearms and ammunition severely constrained. Throughout much of the developing world, many of the poorest peoples who depend on firearms for subsistence hunting and protection will no longer be able to afford to purchase new firearms or the ammunition needed to field them.

For Canadians, we can potentially expect exponential increases in the cost of ammunition, firearms, parts, and accessories across the board; assuming Ottawa ratifies the treaty. In all likelihood it would also mark the end of the surplus firearms trade and collecting in Canada.

Canada's National Firearms Association has expended much time and capital fighting

this UN ATT, both internationally and in Ottawa. Over the past several years we've provided the federal government with detailed briefing papers that clearly laid out the ramifications the proposed Arms Trade Treaty would have for Canadians and our slowly-recovering Canadian firearms industry.

To a degree, our lobby efforts in Ottawa have yielded a fair measure of success on this issue. During the ATT talks last year, the Canadian delegation from the Department of Foreign Affairs was able to have the wording of the treaty's preamble changed to somewhat mitigate the NFA's legitimate concerns over the inclusion of "sporting firearms" under the treaty's provisions.

We won that round, however, the forces of international civil disarmament have never admitted defeat, and as we expected they opted to do an end-run around the UN Security Council and take their cause directly to the UN General Assembly. Sadly, if you know anything about the UN General Assembly, rather than being a body of sober thought and reflection, it can better be described as a thoroughly corrupt, morally bankrupt "asylum" where the lunatics call the shots.

As ethically-challenged as the General Assembly is, their adoption of the ATT is still bad news for Canadian firearms owners in the long-term. For the moment, I'm not concerned that the Conservatives are about to embark upon some hare-brained domestic gun control pogrom at the behest of the Coalition for Gun Control and the United Nations. However, I'm absolutely terrified what a future Liberal or NDP government will do, in an effort to live-up to Canada's "international arms control commitments," should either party form a majority government.

Members of both main opposition parties

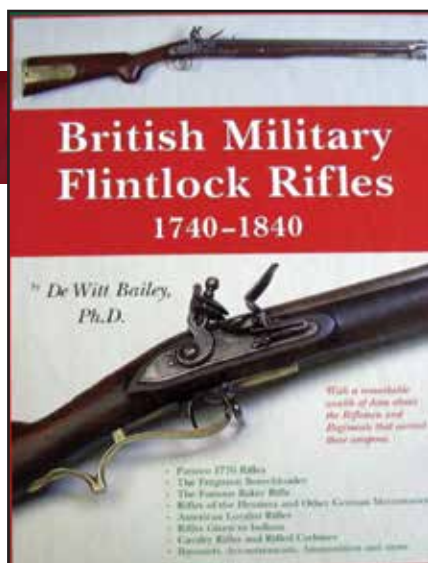
have already accused the Conservatives of failing to live-up to their international obligations and commitments on the issue of arms control because of the latter's failure to implement the equally damaging UN small arms marking program ratified by the former Liberal government. These pressures continue to mount, both domestically and internationally, and gun prohibitionist groups like IANSA, Project Ploughshares, and the Coalition for Gun Control have already launched a dedicated public relations campaign aimed at painting Canada in a negative light to force Ottawa to ratify the new ATT.

They continue to characterize the Harper government's stance on the treaty, and firearms issues generally, as being out of step with the more "enlightened" members of the international community. Now that the treaty has been passed, they argue Canada has an obligation to respect the will of the international community and ratify it immediately. Immediate ratification, they contend, is the only option if Canada is to ever get back in step with the rest of the world and live-up to its once proud reputation as a socially responsible international actor and respected "middle power."

With the Liberal's C-68 gun control program still largely intact, a ratified UN Arms Trade Treaty would inevitably spell doom for the future of Canadian gun rights and ownership. If made reality, it would indeed prove a truly toxic legacy for the Harper government to leave gun owners.

Editor...Cont. on Page 20





NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. R. Rantz

British Military Flintlock Rifles 1740 – 1840

Author: De Witt Bailey, Ph.D.

Hard Cover, 264 Pages, Black/White Photographs, 8 ½ x 11 inches

First Edition, 2002, Andrew Mowbray Publishers

ISBN: 1-931464-03-0

British Military Flintlock Rifles 1740 – 1840 is a highly specific reference book written by De Witt Bailey whose intended purpose was to present an accurate historical assessment of British troops and the role of the flintlock rifle. In his introduction the author indicates that he believes facts have been “distorted or ignored” by nationalistic historians writing about such events as the War for American Independence.

In order to present the reality of the introduction and use of the rifle by British troops and their allies, extensive research of British military small arms was conducted over a period of three decades. De Witt Bailey presents factual information, regarding flintlock rifles used by the British army, which he has located in three main resources. One being the actual rifles which have survived and now rest in collections or museums. Secondly, patents which were issued to those who invented or improved features which allowed the rifles to evolve over almost two hundred years. Finally and of great significance are the actual records of firearm shipments and inventories originally maintained by the British military. It is most fortunate that such documents have survived until today. These records provide detailed information on the number and type of firearms issued as well as the unit, location and issue date.

British Military Flintlock Rifles 1740 – 1840 provides the reader with extensive data on the firearms known to be used during this time period. The itemized table of contents enables the reader to quickly locate sought after information from any of the seventeen chapters. This book effectively chronicles, through the firearms used, the history of the 1740 - 1840 time period. Exploration,

settlement of the new world and the wars which erupted between England and other nations were all influenced by the rifles which were available at the time. The author feels that increased awareness by readers may result in additional materials being discovered for inclusion in future volumes.

The types of rifles covered are far too numerous to list individually. The Baker Rifle's variations are discussed in several chapters which also present information on the bayonets, accoutrements and ammunition. The author has provided detailed text, over three hundred clear and well captioned photographs, plus a variety of charts. Appendix number one provides exacting technical specifications on over two dozen specific British service rifles. Anyone attempting to identify a particular rifle from this time period would find this section most valuable.

Canadian readers of ***British Military Flintlock Rifles 1740 – 1840*** will be drawn to the chapters about Loyalist Riflemen, Indian Rifles in the British Service and Government-gift Flintlock Trade Rifles. These firearms could quite possibly still be located in Canada after having sat for close to two centuries. Such rifles may have been altered from their original specifications or appear to be in very poor condition. However, a newly located specimen would represent a significant part of Canadian history well worthy of study and preservation.

British Military Flintlock Rifles 1740 – 1840 retails at \$47.95 which is reasonable for such a high quality reference book. If unavailable through local sources it may be easily located online.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Political mileage from scrapping LGR waning fast!

by Sheldon Clare

After a delay of several months Public Safety Minister Vic Toews responded to letters that I sent on your behalf regarding the need for significant changes to the Firearms Act. You will recall that these letters included requests to remove magazine prohibitions, to seek repeal of sections 91 and 92 of the Criminal Code and to remove the stigma of the prohibited class that make these firearms unusable and prevent their owners from full enjoyment of their property. I also requested a meeting with the Minister.

The letters received one response from Toews mentioning the repeal of the long gun registry, though I confess the mileage on that achievement is starting to wear thin, even as Quebec continues to demand the data. The Quebec National Assembly has prepared Bill 20 to set up a provincial registry which would be based upon the Federal data being granted to Quebec should its challenge be won. Apparently there is no opposition to Bill 20 in the Quebec legislature; however there is significant opposition to the bill growing in the half a million firearms owners in Quebec. The Quebec government is making the federal government the good guys in the eyes of Quebec firearms owners - even if there is no opposition in the National Assembly to this bill at this time, there certainly will be after the next Quebec election.

I confess that I found Minister Toews' response unsatisfying, even disappointing. He stated that there would be no weakening of the prohibited category, which as we all know is an arbitrary grouping of firearms that is being further added to by the RCMP on a regular basis. There was no commitment for further change, just a comment that "Your concerns will inform the next steps we take." I note that there was no response to my latest request for a meeting, but hopefully that will change.

I am reminded of a column that I wrote some time ago that likened politics to shopping. Firearms owners in Canada know that there is nothing good in the store for them in the NDP or Liberal parties, and while there are vague hints of more in the back room of the Conservative party, there really isn't much on the shelves to excite firearms owners. It is time to see the shelves restocked as the registry product has had its shelf life expire, except of course in Quebec, where it continues to be a festering sore. It is curious as to why the Conservatives continue to support failed Liberal and Progressive Conservative legislation in the form of Bills C-68 and C-17. Those laws and

regulations arising from them are hurting innocent Canadian firearms owners, do not provide any protection to the public, and so they must be repealed.

The *Firearms Act* was written in haste with an unachievable aim of keeping firearms from bad people - instead it has created a means for the federal firearms bureaucracy to seize property and over-regulate the innocent. There are many recent examples that show excess zeal on the part of the expensive firearms bureaucracy - the recent reclassification of several firearms is nothing more than legal theft based upon official misdirection. Firearms Officer demands for additional and clearly un-warranted controls at gun shows have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with making gun owners and vendors suffer. It simply is not necessary to require trigger locks on every firearm at the Calgary Gun Show, or at any others for that matter, even though that has been the practice in Quebec for many years.

What needs to be done is to stop tinkering with these bad firearms laws and return to sensible laws by repealing the former Bills C-17 and C-68. The Canadian public deserves nothing less than laws enjoying the respect of those affected - the *Firearms Act* is simply bad law, and it serves no one's interests to keep it.

As long as the Liberal and PC - designed *Firearms Act* remains law, the freedoms, rights, and property of all Canadians remains at risk. Fundamental firearms law reform will not have been achieved until the Government of Canada replaces the 1995 Liberal C-68 *Firearms Act* and the previous Bill C-17 with new legislation that respects the rights and property of ordinary Canadians. Firearms laws have often been pushed upon Canadians under the guise of public safety, when in fact these laws are merely serving to limit hard won freedoms. Neither the firearm registration system, nor the licensing programs have ever truly been about saving any lives. These laws have really been about trying to change Canadian firearms culture, and it is up to each of us to protect and build upon our heritage. I hope that Minister Toews and others in the government are paying attention because the expectation of them fixing those laws is why they have a majority right now.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Par Sheldon Clare

Après plusieurs mois d'attente, j'ai enfin reçu une réponse aux lettres que j'avais envoyé au Ministre de la sécurité publique M. Vic Toews. Je lui ai fait part des enjeux qui vous tiennent à coeur en lui demandant de faire des changements majeurs à la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF). Il s'agissait de retirer la classe prohibée de certains chargeurs, d'abroger les Articles 91 et 92 du Code Criminel et d'éliminer la classe d'armes à feu dites prohibées. À cause de cette classe, ces armes sont devenues inutilisables, empêchant leurs propriétaires d'en jouir pleinement. J'ai aussi demandé au Ministre de me rencontrer.

Toutes mes lettres n'ont reçue qu'une réponse unique de la part de M. Toews qui faisait l'éloge de l'élimination du registre des armes longues. Cette réalisation commence à avoir fait son temps, même si Québec continu de réclamer les données du registre. L'Assemblée Nationale du Québec vient de présenter son Projet de Loi 20, qui se veut de créer un registre provincial basé sur les données fédérales, s'il réussissent à les récupérer. Le Gouvernement du Québec a décidé de faire bien paraître le Gouvernement Fédéral aux yeux d'un demi-million de propriétaires d'armes à feu Québécois en initiant son Projet de Loi 20. Quoi qu'il n'y ait présentement aucune opposition à ce Projet de Loi à l'Assemblée Nationale, il y en aura sûrement après les prochaines élections provinciales car il y a de l'opposition grandissante pour ce Projet de la part des propriétaires d'armes à feu Québécois.

La réponse de M. Toews ne m'a pas satisfaite, elle m'a plutôt déçue. Il m'affirma que la classe d'armes dites prohibées ne sera pas modifiée, et ce malgré le fait qu'elle ait été créée arbitrairement par la GRC qui ne se gêne pas d'en rallonger la liste sur une base régulière. M. Toews ne s'est engagé à faire aucun autre changement à la LAF. Il a seulement énoncé, "Vos inquiétudes nous guideront face aux prochaines étapes que nous entreprendrons." Il est resté muet à ma plus récente demande de le rencontrer, j'espère qu'il se ravisera.

Il y a quelque temps dans un des articles que j'ai écrits, je comparais la politique au magasinage. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens savent qu'il n'y a rien de bon dans les boutiques tenues par le NPD et les Libéraux. Quoi qu'il y ait quelques indices de bonnes choses cachées dans l'arrière-boutique des Conservateurs, il n'y a pas grand chose d'offert sur leurs étagères qui puisse enthousiasmer les propriétaires d'armes à feu. Il est temps que les Conservateurs regarnissent leurs tablettes puisque l'abolition du registre des armes longues a définitivement dépassé sa date de consommation, sauf au Québec où il prend l'aspect d'une plaie qui s'infecte. C'est étrange que les Conservateurs continuent d'appuyer 2 anciens Projets de Loi, C-68 des Libéraux et C-17 des Progressistes Conservateurs qui sont clairement des échecs. Les lois et règlements qui en découlent ne font que nuire aux honnêtes propriétaires d'armes

à feu Canadiens sans fournir quelque protection que ce soit à la population.

Ils doivent être abrogés.

La LAF écrite à la hâte, devait interdire l'accès aux armes à feu par les malfaiteurs, ce qui est évidemment un objectif impossible à atteindre. Son effet véritable a été de créer un outil pour les fonctionnaires des armes, leur permettant de saisir plus facilement les biens personnels et de réglementer des personnes inoffensives. Des excès de zèle de la part de la bureaucratie coûteuse des armes ont été constatés récemment. Les changements de classes de certains modèles d'armes ne sont que du vol pur et simple, sanctionnés par des fonctionnaires mal orientés. Les récentes exigences superflues des Contrôleurs des armes à feu par rapport aux expositions d'armes à feu sont évidemment injustifiées. Elles n'ont aucun lien avec la sécurité publique. Leur objectif est uniquement de faire souffrir les vendeurs et les propriétaires d'armes à feu. Il n'est aucunement nécessaire qu'on cadenasse chaque arme à feu à l'exposition de Calgary, ni à aucune autre exposition même si cette pratique existe au Québec depuis plusieurs années.

Les ajustements mineurs à ces mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu doivent cesser. Les anciens Projets de Loi C-17 et C-68 doivent être carrément abrogés et remplacés par des lois qui ont du bon sens. Les citoyens Canadiens ne méritent pas moins que d'avoir des lois qui respectent les principaux intéressés. La LAF est essentiellement une mauvaise loi. C'est dans l'intérêt de personne que de la garder en vigueur.

Tant et aussi longtemps que la LAF conçue par les Libéraux reste en vigueur, les libertés, les droits et la propriété de tous les Canadiens demeurent en péril. Une réforme fondamentale des lois sur les armes à feu ne sera pas accomplie avant que le Gouvernement du Canada remplace la LAF de 1995 des Libéraux connue aussi sous le nom de C-68 et le Projet de Loi précédent C-17, par une nouvelle loi qui respecte les droits et la propriété des Canadiens ordinaires. On a souvent imposé des lois sur les armes à feu aux Canadiens prétextant la sécurité publique, quand ces lois n'avaient aucun autre but que de limiter des libertés durement acquises. Ni l'enregistrement des armes, ni le système de permis n'ont été conçus pour sauver des vies. L'objectif primordial de ces lois a toujours été d'essayer de changer la culture Canadienne des armes à feu. C'est la responsabilité de chacun d'entre nous de protéger et de faire prospérer ce patrimoine. Il est souhaitable que le Ministre Toews et d'autres membres du Gouvernement portent attention à nos demandes de réparer ces mauvaises lois car ce sont nous qui leur ont permis d'être élus avec une majorité.



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Quebec Gun Registry Mistake

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

Those that expected gun control to cease to be a thorny political issue in Canada after the ending of long gun registration must be disappointed, surprised or perhaps even baffled by recent events related to firearms ownership in this nation.

For those of us who expected it would continue to be a hot-button political issue, recent events simply provide further evidence that the politics of firearms in Canada not only continues to evolve, but will forever be molded by the legislative atrocities committed by the PC and Liberal governments of the 1990s.

After the newly elected majority Conservative government of Stephen Harper moved to enact legislation ending long gun registration (LGR) last year, the Quebec provincial government quickly sued to force the feds to deliver the Quebec LGR data to them. However, under Bill C-19, there was a legal mandate requiring that all federal LGR data be destroyed once the *Act* came into force. This mandate was later satisfied; despite the extremely vocal protestations of the civil disarmament lobby, the Liberal and NDP opposition, and the Quebec provincial government. The latter, it seemed, had hoped in vain that other provinces would join their demand for the data's preservation.

An injunction against the deletion of the Quebec LGR data was secured by that provincial government. The Quebec Superior Court subsequently ordered the federal government to turn over the LGR data collected in that province, despite federal law clearly directing it to be destroyed. The Feds have appealed that order to the Supreme Court of Canada, but in the interim a long gun registry of sorts continues to operate in Quebec.

It is no longer a criminal offense not to hold a registration for a long gun there, but if you do not, the fact remains the Quebec Chief Firearms Officer still retains extensive regulatory and administrative powers; including the ability to unilaterally revoke firearms licenses for failure to do so. Furthermore, any non-restricted long gun, either purchased by or transferred to a Quebecer from out-of-province, must be registered upon arrival. Any long gun sold by a business in Quebec will also continue to be registered and transferred by the Canadian Firearms Program, just as they were pre-Bill C-19.

Any reasonable person might ask: Why must such bureaucratic nonsense continue to be enforced in Quebec, - especially when there is no longer any legal requirement to do so in the rest of Canada?

It seems that the provincial government of Quebec couldn't answer that one either, so they have introduced new legislation that mandates the construction of a provincial gun registry instead: Bill C-20.

When Bill C-20 passes, and it will as all political parties in Quebec support it, Quebecers will be compelled once more to register their non-restricted firearms; just as they were when the federal registry was in force. They fully expect the Supreme Court of Canada to direct the federal government to transfer the old faulty and hopelessly dated LGR data in order to help them achieve their goal.

However, while the Quebec gun registry will have no force in criminal law, it will in provincial administrative law. More importantly, it will also continue to be enforced via powers conferred on provincial chief firearms officers by the federal *Firearms Act*. So, although it will no

longer constitute a criminal offense, should an owner fail to register their firearms under the new Quebec registration system, the Quebec CFO will still effectively hold the power to revoke firearms licenses and confiscate guns in support of the province's renewed anti-gun position.

Furthermore, a new mandate is to be instituted requiring that owners permanently mark or stamp a second Quebec serial number onto their firearms before they will be allowed to register them. Additionally, all firearms submitted for registration will also have to have their data physically "verified" by an official firearms verifier.

The idea of permanently stamping a second serial number is straight out of the UN small arms marking protocols agreed to by the previous federal Liberal government. Luckily for gun owners, the Conservatives have chosen not to implement it so far, thanks in part to the efforts of Canada's National Firearms Association.

In fact, Canada's National Firearms Association has been front-and-center in the fight against implementation of the UN marking scheme. There is no question implementation would have a devastating impact on the legitimate Canadian firearms industry; to absolutely no public good. Thus, we fight.

The sheer logistics involved in implementing such protocols would appear beyond the cash-strapped Quebec government's means to surmount, and the infrastructure required to facilitate it simply does not exist. If the federal long-gun registry's original estimated budget of just \$2 million is any indication, taxpayers can expect to find themselves on the hook for many additional tens of millions needed to create the required infrastructure. How they intend

to facilitate this, nobody in the Quebec government can or will say at the moment. Nevertheless, the fact remains that there simply aren't enough actual technicians or physical assets available to the government to make even a token effort at implementing such a hare-brained marking scheme.

The requirement for physical verification of each firearm, however, is absolutely necessary for a registry program of this type to successfully operate; and it is something the Quebec government cannot avoid. Verification was a requirement for registration under the original federal LGR, but was abandoned in the chaos extant in the run-up to the impending 2002 legislative deadline for implementation of universal registration. Just as Canada's NFA predicted back then, the process proved both outrageously expensive and excessively time-consuming to complete. In the end, just the barest fraction of the estimated 22 million firearms then in Canada was ever subjected to proper verification. Ultimately, political expediency won out over the Liberal's perceived "public safety" concerns associated with unregistered deer rifles being in the hands of Canadian hunters and sportsmen.

Much to the Chretien government's chagrin, Canadians were not registering their long guns in sufficient numbers to justify the outrageous cost-overruns and expense of creating their gun registry. Compounding this problem was the Liberal's short-sighted demand that every firearm be physically verified prior to registration. This requirement helped create a logistical log-jam that was becoming a major political embarrassment for the Liberal government of the day.

In order to maintain appearances and ignoring the data-processing truism of "Garbage in=Garbage out," verification was abandoned in the interests of political expediency. Following the *Law of Unintended Consequences*, removing the requirement for verification would later cause untold grief for the registry and firearms owners alike. Data collected was invariably faulty, incomplete or incorrect. Some citizens even registered nail guns, glue guns and similar tools as a form of protest over the Liberal's draconian gun control program.

The resulting registry that existed from 2003, until it was ended in 2012, was riddled with errors and mistakes and became a useless white elephant. The LGR, as an effective police investigative tool,

was wholly compromised by that single decision.

It seems that the Quebec government wants to avoid the same pitfall with its registry, but must rely on existing firearms verifiers to do it. In 1995, the federal Liberals originally envisioned that Canadians would volunteer in legions to become firearms verifiers in support of their gun control program. This never happened, and the volunteer verifier program was scrapped a few years later. The only firearms verifiers that exist now are associated with firearms businesses, law enforcement and public agencies, and there are simply not enough of these to verify the data necessary for every gun requiring registration in Quebec.

Nonetheless, Quebec's Minister of Public Safety, Stéphane Bergeron claims their provincial gun registry "will only cost a few million" to impose. Where have we heard that before?

According to Quebec Liberal MNA Kathleen Weill; "I think we all remember where we were at the precise moment Polytechnique happened. It's a very emotional file for us. I never sensed the federal government really understood the deep scars this left on Quebecers. So of course we're all united."

A very emotional file.

The imposition of the Liberal's 1995 C-68 *Firearms Act* and its "universal firearms registry" was a crime against the rights, culture and property of Canadians. The Liberals who imposed it upon Canadian gun owners in the 1990s have paid a heavy price for their hubris. Today Canada's "natural ruling party" has been reduced to third party status in Parliament, and is now facing potential political oblivion.

The controversy created by that legislation redefined the firearms debate in Canada. Thankfully, it would later result in the very first firearms law reforms in modern Canadian political history - with the recent passage of Bill C-19 and the end of the LGR.

The emotional politicians of Quebec, who think with their hearts but not with their heads, have failed to learn from the mistakes of their federal counterparts. We also know that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. As such, I have little sympathy for them in this regard; as all of Quebec's provincial counterparts across Canada have somehow managed to recognize the truth after it hit them square in the face: Gun control is a lie.

Gun control can only target and will only be observed by those who are already law-abiding and pose no threat. Criminals will ignore it. Similarly, gun control schemes will invariably fail to prevent the murderous actions of madmen and lunatics, just as they did during the September 2006 attack on Montreal's Dawson College. The deranged shooter, Kimveer Gill, despite a history of mental illness and anti-social behavior, successfully obtained a firearms license. He used this to legally purchase a number of firearms, both restricted and non-restricted, and was duly issued an *Authorization to Transport* his guns to and from approved shooting ranges in Quebec.

Despite being subjected to the full-weight of the Liberal's billion-dollar gun control bureaucracy, Gill somehow passed muster and was able to execute his campaign of lunacy and murder. As the Gill case clearly proves, you simply cannot legislate against madness and no licensing, registration or authorization system will ever prevent the same from happening again.

But in Quebec, emotion still rules supreme and continues to trump sound public policy-making. Rather than divert desperately needed funds into their failing mental-health care system or putting more frontline police on the streets, Quebec politicians are once more targeting hunters and sport shooters.

That Quebec gun owners need once more find their rights as law-abiding citizens sacrificed on the altar of political correctness is outrageous! The fact that its own government may potentially destroy Quebec's billion-dollar sport shooting and hunting industry as "collateral damage," thanks to its misguided anti-gun crusade, is equally mind-boggling. It is, however, a very sad commentary on just how short-sighted successive "progressive" governments bent on complete civil disarmament can be.

Obviously Quebec provincial politicians are proving poor students of history. They seem hell-bent on repeating the same public-policy blunders as their federal counterparts on the left. Alas, the costs of those repeated mistakes are beginning to add up in terms of lives lost, civil-rights trampled and wasted tax dollars.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sean,

I've been a member for quite a few years, and just wanted to mention how much I appreciate the evolution of the Canadian Firearms Journal under your hand. The range of interests and reasons for becoming a National Firearms Association member are certainly diverse, but your magazine seems to always have something for everyone. Personally, I read it cover to cover, but always start with your superb writing in your 'From the Editor's Desk' column. Articulate, eloquent and thought-provoking, I believe your column sets the bar for the rest of the journal. Your column in the November/December issue was truly an outstanding piece and spurred me to write. I'm assuming that your editorial hand is at work behind the scenes in the rest of the articles as well, as indicated by their consistent quality and clarity. Thank you for your significant contribution in producing a publication that I can share with others to promote our organizations gals, with pride and without hesitation.

Andrew W.

PS. As my eyes age, I also appreciate the CFJ abandoning the practise of overlaying text onto photos or dark backgrounds. Clean black text on a crisp white background means I don't have to look for reading glasses and a high intensity reading light!

Dear Andrew,

Many thanks for your kind words. *Canadian Firearms Journal* is a group effort and, as dedicated volunteers, we strive to provide a magazine that will not only appeal to our members, but also help us further the efforts of Canada's National Firearms Association to protect and promote the firearm rights of all law-abiding Canadians. We see CFJ as a constant work-in-progress that we hope to improve with each issue. The constructive criticism and suggestions offered by members such as you help us accomplish that goal. I hope that we do not disappoint with this issue!

- Sean

Dear Sean,

I'm a long-term member of Canada's National Firearms Association and I enjoy owning both restricted and non-restricted firearms. As a resident of British Columbia I can't tell you how frustrating it has been trying to deal with our provincial Chief Firearms Office over the past year or so. It seems as if the CFO is asleep at the wheel or the entire staff is completely incompetent. I've literally spent months and months waiting to get transfers approved or ATTs to be processed and seems almost impossible to get a straight answer from the talking-heads currently occupying the office of the CFO. I'm at the end of my patience dealing with these stuffed-shirts! What can be done to fix this?

John M.

Dear John,

Your complaints are not the first we've received concerning the lack of service currently being offered by the BC CFO. We've heard much the same story from many, many other NFA members and fellow firearms owners of late. We've brought these complaints to the CFO and informed Minister Toews of the growing issues and concerns we have with the current system of chief firearms offices across the country.

For now, I would suggest that you contact your local provincial MPP, your federal MP and the Minister of Public Safety, Vic Toews, about your complaints and lack of service. A hand-written letter is generally far more effective than an email or fax, although you can certainly follow-up your letter with a direct phone call to your representative's office or drop by for a personal chat about your concerns. You want your representatives to be able to put a face to a name and get to know you.

In fact, we all need to become much more involved in the political process and ensure that our representatives are properly informed on critical firearms issues. By presenting ourselves in a professional manner, being respectful and doing our utmost to dispel the negative stereotypes of gun owners perpetuated by the civil disarmament lobby, we ensure that our concerns will not be ignored.

- Sean

Dear Sean,

I just wanted to drop you guys a line and say thanks for all your hard work putting together what I think is the best gun mag in Canada! As a hardcore "Black Gun" guy I appreciate all the support you and the NFA have given our little segment of the Canadian firearms community. It can get a little tiresome enduring the prejudices perpetuated by groups like the Coalition for Gun Control, just because I prefer hunting with a modern sporting rifle rather than a more traditional design. I regularly hunt gophers, prairie dogs and coyotes with my .223 Swiss Arms Black Special and have successfully harvested several deer with my Rob Arms XCR-M.

Now that the LGR is toast, I have some concerns about what to do if/when I run into a conservation officer. My one previous encounter while afield with my Swiss Arms ended okay after I produced my registration certificate showing that the rifle was non-restricted. The officer had no idea we were allowed to legally hunt with what he called an "assault rifle." I took the time to explain that it wasn't an "assault rifle" and by the end he agreed that other than cosmetics, my Swiss Arms was no different than the Ruger Mini-14 Ranch Rifle being toted by my hunting buddy.

That encounter went well. What worries me now is that with the demise of the LGR should I expect more hassles from uninformed conservation officers and police who observe me hunting? I had intended to burn all of my registration certificates after Bill C-19 passed, but held onto those for my

non-restricted "black guns" just in case. What should I do?

Bill M.

Dear Bill,

Thanks for your letter and congratulations on educating that conservation officer. Like you, I regularly hunt with my "black guns." It is indeed unfortunate that those tasked with enforcing the law are often less informed than those of who are subject to it. Since that reality is unlikely to change anytime soon, we all must attempt to find a solution that works best given our individual circumstances.

Certainly, carrying your old firearm certificate is an option. Others have even gone so far as to carry printed copies of the Firearms Reference Table entry for their particular firearm. I'm not going to criticize any fellow firearms owner who opts to do so. However, I personally do not, simply on principle.

Instead, I ensure that I am always fully compliant with the law and when I encounter either conservation officers or police while afield I try to be as genial and as helpful as possible, without being obsequious. I've found over the years that a little politeness goes a long way in such circumstances. If asked about the status of firearm I assure the questioner that it is completely non-restricted and completely legal to hunt with, and suggest that they confirm said information with the CFP. On the two occasions I've experienced such encounters since the LGR was scrapped, the enquiring officers both took my word for the status of my "black rifle" and wished me luck with my hunt. I hope that your future encounters end as just as amicably.

- Sean

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NWMP Trooper
courtesy of The
Mounted Police
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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

THE REBELLION OF 1885 Part II - The Government Strikes Back

Gary K. Kangas and Branko Diklitch

casualties mounted and the insurgents went on the offensive.

Waging a guerilla war, the rebels burned ranches and farms, resupplying as needed during their lightning quick raids and at the settler's expense. The local populace that remained loyal to Ottawa became frantic as news of the raiding spread. In response, homesteaders and ranchers converged on the larger settlements, leaving their spare horses, livestock, and valuable guns and ammunition behind in their haste to reach safety. The rebels were delighted that their logistical problems were so conveniently solved for them, however temporarily. Adding to the confusion and the growing fears of the civilian population was the western press. The latter inflamed the population with threats of imminent massacre and mayhem.

As overall commander of the federal forces assembled to deal with the crisis, Major General Middleton departed for Qu'Appelle immediately following his arrival in Winnipeg. In tow was the 90th Winnipeg Rifles. In response to the uprising, additional regular and militia units were mobilized to reinforce government forces already engaged. These included a number of Ontario-based units from the Kingston and Toronto regions, along with others from Quebec. Canadian regulars of artillery, infantry school cadets, cavalry, and militia regiments such as the Queens Own Rifles, 65th Carabiniers de Mont Royal, 10th Grenadiers and many others were also ordered west. Additional local units such as the Winnipeg Field Battery

and improvised cavalry also left for Qu'Appelle.

Superintendent W.M. Herchmer, with 50 NWMP, left Regina and rode for Battleford as the Winnipeg Field Artillery arrived at Qu'Appelle. At the same time, urgent requests from scattered frontier posts and under-strength ad hoc militias were heating up the telegraph wires to Ottawa. The only question was would the desperately needed reinforcements and resupply arrive in time?

On April 9th Major General Middleton, with over 400 men and more than one hundred supply wagons, arrived at Touchwood Hills. The area had been chosen as a marshaling area for government forces in the region. Middleton was certain that the Métis resistance would collapse when confronted by a well-equipped and properly trained force. He would soon be presented with the opportunity to test his theory in practice.

As General Middleton was making his preparations for battle, a new cast member was to make his first appearance in the life-and-death play that was the Rebellion of '85. Captain Arthur Howard, of the Connecticut militia, arrived on April 12th, bringing with him two Model 1876 Colt Gatling guns chambered in .45-70 and presenting Middleton with a potentially devastating tactical advantage.

Oblivious to the dangers such an otherwise unremarkable arrival should hold for them, the various First Nations and Métis units continued with their raiding, taking prisoners, and causing fires to erupt in virtually every district.

The History –

The changing of the seasons brought with it an escalation in hostilities as the rebellion continued to spread and the western frontier remained in turmoil throughout the spring of 1885. Fort Carlton, an NWMP installation, was abandoned on March 28th. Fearing what was to come, local politicians anxiously telegraphed Ottawa, demanding immediate military intervention.

As the intensity and breadth of the rebellion grew, so too did the cast of identifiable characters and combatants. Among them were such high-profile luminaries as Charles Dickens' son, Inspector Francis Dickens, the commander of Fort Pitt. Unfortunately for the good inspector, Fort Pitt was fated to fall on April 14th, leaving local government troops in full retreat.

After the initial success of the rebels and due to the bloodshed at Frog Lake, by April 3rd, 1885, the Government was in full froth! The citizens of Battleford and many of the surrounding settlements formed civilian defence units of every able-bodied citizen, from boys to the elderly. Mayhem ensued as civilian

Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and Gatling gun re-creations from author's collection



On April 13th Lieutenant-Colonel Otter then departed Swift Current with renowned Australian adventurer and frontier scout Charles Ross (Ross was an Australian who had been involved in the Indian Wars in the US, Nez Perce, Bannock, and Ute campaigns). They were accompanied by four war correspondents. Otter's company consisted of a single 7 pounder field gun; 25 NWMP troopers, commanded by W.M. Herchmer; 25 dismounted troops; a detachment of B battery, Canadian Artillery School, who were equipped with two 9 pounder field guns; and one of Arthur Howard's Gatling guns, all under the command of Major C.J. Short. In addition, Otter's

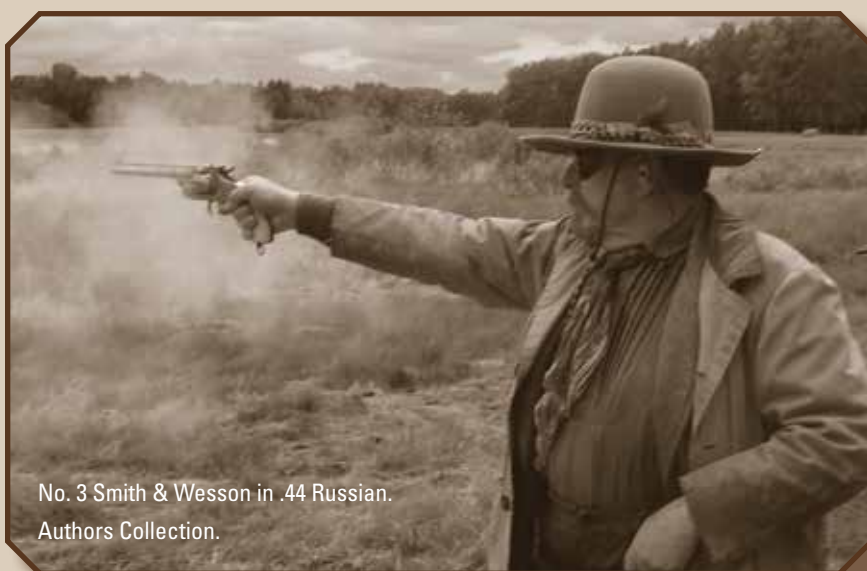
command also included elements of a variety of other units, including the C Company Infantry School, the Governor-General's Foot Guard, the Queen's Own Rifles, and some 200 transport and supply wagons. In total, Otter's command consisted of some 763 officers and men; a not inconsiderable force for the time and region!

April was to prove a seminal month in the history of the rebellion. By mid-month two major events began to unfold simultaneously. First, Middleton's column was making preparations to march on Batoche from Humbolt. Second, Otter's column was on the march from Swift Current to relieve Battleford.

Tensions at the time were at their highest. Couriers and scouts had reported the fall of various installations and reports were coming in of many civilian casualties. Various government forces, left orphan after their various duty stations and forts were ordered abandoned, were issued new orders to join-up with either the Otter or Middleton expeditionary forces. Through such temporary defeats, government forces hoped to march onward to victory.

Three defining engagements were about to be contested that would ultimately decide the rebellion's victors. The first of these was the Battle of Fish Creek, which was fought on April 24th. The battle was to see Gabriel Dumont and a small group of Métis and First Nations square-off against Middleton's force. The fight was intense and bloody, with the Métis defying the odds and subsequently stopping the government troops in their tracks. Dumont had set a trap in a treed coulee. By concealing their horses and deploying his forces in natural cover, the frontiersmen ensured they took advantage of every potential tactical advantage Mother Nature had to offer.

However, in hindsight it seems almost as if Middleton's mounted scouts anticipated the hidden danger, even as they descended into the coulee. Had this not been the case the casualties on the government side would most certainly have been far greater. As it was, the battle was joined when government forces



No. 3 Smith & Wesson in .44 Russian.
Authors Collection.



Re-creation of a Militia man firing a Snider Enfield.
Authors collection.

discovered the rebel's hidden mounts and began shooting the horses. Having lost the element of surprise, the withering fire from the Métis and First Nations warriors still inflicted shocking casualties on Middleton's men. Seeing an opportunity to break contact, Dumont and his still out-numbered Métis withdrew, having

sustained very few casualties. The same could not be said of their enemy, with Middleton's forces having suffered some 25 percent casualties.

A little over a week later, it was Lt.-Col. Otter's turn to face rebel guns, in what was to become the second major engagement of the uprising. The Battle of Cut Knife Hill began May 2nd, with Otter eager to engage the opposing forces. It was a battle that was not supposed to have happened, as he had been specifically instructed by Middleton to conserve his forces and not engage in direct battle alone. Yet, Otter disobeyed orders and in his eagerness to defeat the Métis adopted a strategy that would almost see his command wiped out.

Otter's battle plan depended on his forces successfully approaching Poundmaker's village and positioning themselves such that the attacking column could swoop down on the unsuspecting Cree and Assiniboine. With a little luck and the element of surprise, the government force should emerge victorious and would have successfully brought the rebel First Nations warriors to heel.

Overconfidence and arrogance would almost prove Col. Otter's downfall, as Poundmaker's warriors were led by Fine Day, an experienced warrior who was

well-versed in the art of moving during a battle. Opening the ball, government units took possession of Cut Knife Hill overlooking the village. 19th century military strategy of the day was based on taking the high ground.

Alerted to their enemy's actions, Fine Day's forces responded quickly and began to envelope Otter's position; moving through the brush; firing as they advanced, they kept Otter's troops well-occupied. Lucky for Otter, his First Nations opponents were comparatively poorly-armed, having been forced to sell their superior repeating Winchesters for food. Instead, Otter faced a mix of obsolete black powder muzzle-loading trade guns, a few older Model 1860 Henrys in .44 Rimfire, as well as a number of the powerful Sharps and Springfield single shots "buffalo guns." The latter were typically chambered in either in .45 and .50 calibre. There are surviving examples of these same Springfield and Sharps rifles from the rebellion on display in several western museums today.

Those too poor to own firearms armed themselves with traditional bows and arrows. Yet, despite being so poorly armed, Fine Day's warriors actually forced Otter's column to withdraw. Certainly an embarrassing defeat for Otter and Ottawa; it could have been much worse if not for the actions of Poundmaker. He was instrumental in preventing Fine Day and the other war leaders, who in their battle-lust, wanted to fully decimate the government column as it retreated in disarray.

After the Battle of Fish Creek, Middleton received additional badly-needed reinforcements, which brought his forces back up to strength. He then began moving cautiously towards the village of Batoche, the key rebel stronghold. Opposing him was Louis Riel himself. Riel and his men had ridden hard from Fish Creek in order to defend Batoche and hopefully deliver another sound defeat to Middleton and his forces.

The opening volley of the battle was fired by Middleton's gunners on May 9th, using a battery of five artillery pieces. It was a sound military decision on Middleton's part to rely on the artillery. It would seem that recent rebel successes had finally served to dispel the general's



Re-creation of Gabriel Dumont.
Authors collection.

overconfidence and he was no longer so quick to underestimate his opponent. Middleton's caution may have also stemmed from the fact that he felt that his army might be outnumbered.

However, this caution did not sit well with many of the Canadian officers in his command. They became annoyed and frustrated with the lack of aggression displayed by their commander following the initial artillery attacks. Amazingly enough, this discontent actually led to outright disobedience on the part of certain officers. Rather than continue to wait, this cadre of rebellious officers opted to charge Riel's forces against orders and with little planning. Such an unauthorized charge could easily have resulted in complete disaster; the likes of which probably hadn't been seen since Pickett's Charge up Cemetery Ridge at the Battle of Gettysburg. Much to Middleton's embarrassment, however, the May 12th attack launched by his mutinous junior officers was a complete success and Riel's Métis were quickly vanquished.

While the lack of discipline and foolhardiness displayed by the attacking Canadian officers could have proven as disastrous as Pickett's doomed charge, in reality, the small and poorly armed band of rebels was simply incapable of withstanding the larger government force. Riel's rebels were out-numbered, out-gunned and never really succeeded in resolving their logistical problems and finding a reliable line of supply.

After the fight, Louis Riel, the driving force behind the rebellion and the man who had guided the Métis since 1868 in their quest to maintain their unique identity, managed to escape immediate capture. Alas, his luck eventually ran out and he was to fall into the hands of a trio of federal scouts on May 15th. Riel's war was finally over. There is no question that Louis had led the Métis valiantly and with vigor, being involved in many key battles such as Duck Lake, Fish Creek, Batoche, and many others. Sadly, his capture marked the penultimate chapter in the Rebellion of 1885.

Riel's trusted right-hand and general, Gabriel Dumont, unlike Riel, managed to avoid a similar fate and evaded his captors at every turn. Eventually, Dumont was to



Re-creation of Louis Riel mounted and armed with Manhattan revolver.
Authors collection.

cross the border into the United States, putting himself beyond Middleton's or Ottawa's reach.

After the defeat at Batoche and the capture of Riel, it became clear that the Métis cause was finished. The resistance that continued thereafter was primarily from the various First Nations groups.

Firearms technology -

Relating to the firearms fielded during the various engagements, the Gatling gun proved a fine example of nineteenth century innovation. My co-author, Gary Kangas, has actually visited jurisdictions where functional Gatling guns can be legally owned and used today. Observing them in action is a true revelation; the function, accuracy and speed of the Gatling is nearly comparable to some full auto machineguns of today. Interestingly enough, during the Rebellion of '85, the Canadian forces used them as artillery, rather than as machine guns. As a consequence, their actual military effect was minimal in the larger tactical and strategic sense. Had they been more effectively employed; - could the rebellion have been brought to a faster conclusion, perhaps saving untold lives?

As for the rebels, they used whatever

firearms they had. In hindsight, it really is remarkable just how effective they proved to be as belligerents, especially given their chronic shortages of arms and ammunition. The handgun, for the rebels was to consequently prove a fixture on many battlefields during the spring of '85. Handguns were widely used by the Métis throughout the uprising and it is purported that Louis Riel himself carried a Manhattan percussion belt revolver in .36 calibre.

The Manhattan was probably the high-water mark in percussion revolvers of the era, having a unique, but reliable safety that locked the hammer between chambers. As a result, all chambers could be carried loaded. It was a slick-handling and deadly accurate handgun. Even if they couldn't afford a Manhattan, the .36 calibre was a popular one amongst the rebels and many Métis, such as Norbert Welsh, carried at least one .36 calibre revolver. The most common of these was Colt's Navy model, which really was excellent and enjoyed a reputation for reliability and accuracy. From muzzle-loaders to modern repeating-actions, the Métis and First Nations armament was certainly eclectic, but also effective.

Next installment - The First Nations Battle On.

POLITICS & GUNS

by Sean G. Penney



The Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee (CFAC) is a little known federal committee tasked with advising the Minister of Public Safety on firearms legislation and related issues. Before the political winds of change swept the anti-gun Liberals from power, the committee was thoroughly packed with civil disarmament lobbyists and hardcore gun banners like Wendy Cukier of the Coalition for Gun Control. Pro-firearm rights organizations and similar stakeholders such as Canada's National Firearms Association were effectively blackballed and any token pro-firearms representative on the committee was simply ignored.

That reality changed when the Conservatives finally won power in 2006, and to their credit, they made an effort to appoint a representative cross-section of Canada's firearms community to the committee. The new CFAC included such firearms industry professionals as licensed firearms dealers, gunsmiths, members of Canada's pro-firearms advocacy groups, police officers, medical doctors, an Olympic medalist and even social scientists, who had made the study of firearms issues a core part of their academic career. These were individuals who had intimate knowledge of how Canada's firearms community worked: Because their livelihoods depended on it; or they were academics who had made the study of firearms law and gun control their life's work; were health-care professionals who had seen both the best and worst sides of the gun control debate; or were simply individuals who would be directly impacted by any decisions made by Government on the firearms issue.

Not surprisingly, groups like the Coalition for Gun Control were more than a little miffed that their proverbial ball had been taken from them. Just as galling was the fact that their former "playground" was now otherwise populated by individuals who had a direct stake in the future course of Canadian firearms legislation. They no longer had the ear of the Government, and much to their chagrin, it was actual pro-firearm stakeholders who now sat at the coveted right hand of the Minister. This new committee, and not the Coalition for Gun Control, now occupied the best possible position from which to advise and influence the Minister of Public Safety on the "gun" issue, including prioritizing perceived needs for firearms law reform.

As a consequence, the Coalition for Gun Control and Canada's "progressive" left-wing media were quick to cry foul, charging the Harper government with the outrageous "sin" of appointing too many firearms experts, dealers, hunters, sport shooters and similar key stakeholders to the CFAC! The pro-firearms

Watch out for splinters!

composition of the committee has remained a constant thorn in the side of Canadian gun control advocates ever since.

Last December the committee released a report that included a number of common sense recommendations that were aimed at reducing the bureaucratic red tape gun owners have to deal with, increasing the efficiency of the current Canadian Firearms Program, and removing some of the pointless and ineffective restrictions placed upon law-abiding gun owners over the preceding two decades.

Having lost a major battle over the long-gun registry, the Coalition for Gun Control and their civil disarmament allies were quick to pounce on the committee's recommendations and dusted off their tried and true strategy of faux outrage and shrill scaremongering. They utilized tactics specifically designed to frighten suburban soccer moms, non-gun owning urban-dwellers, and like-minded "progressives" into believing that any such reforms would result in machinegun-toting "rednecks" terrorizing their neighbourhoods; or potentially making the attractions of the "thug life" of an inner-city drug dealer impossible for their kids to ignore, -should legal sales of handguns continue to be permitted in Canada. After all, most "crime" guns in Canada began as "legal" guns, at least if you listen to the gun control lobby's warnings.

However, the passage of time and a return to rational public policy-making stripped the Coalition's terror-campaign of much of its effectiveness, and their arguments gained little traction. The public had heard the same arguments and apocalyptic predictions before, but were no longer buying it en masse. Then the tragedy of Newtown happened and suddenly gun grabbers everywhere were presented with the opportunity of a "do-over" that permitted them yet another go at seeing further gun bans imposed on legal owners. It mattered little that they were exploiting the senseless murder of twenty innocent children and their teachers. Here was a chance to reverse their flagging fortunes and twist the proverbial knife in the back of the Canadian "gun lobby!"

Front and center, as part of the Coalition's new anti-gun campaign, was a renewed attack on semi-auto firearms and so-called "assault rifles." That their arguments in favour of renewed bans and restrictions were factually incorrect and completely baseless mattered little. Exploiting Newtown for full effect, Canadian gun-control lobbyists brought immense pressure to bear on the federal government and used the CFAC

recommendations as their leverage. Among other common sense suggestions, the CFAC had recommended the loosening of restrictions related to Canada's rather arbitrary system of firearms classifications, including firearms such as the now-demonized AR-15 type rifle; the most popular modern sporting rifle in North America today.

Consequently, in the aftermath of Newtown, talk of actually reforming Canada's 12.(X) firearm classification system seemed to become verboten within Ottawa's halls of power. In the face of the growing protest over the committee's report, Prime Minister Harper was to later rise in the House of Commons, stating that his government had no plans to make any changes to the current system, including loosening such restrictions. Admittedly, he also stated that neither did his government have plans to re-classify any handguns or "assault weapons" currently designated as prohibited.

Not good enough!

I'm sorry, but as a law-abiding gun owner, long-time Conservative supporter, card-carrying CPC member, and one of the many thousands who inadvertently sold themselves out of the 12.(x) classes, -thanks to government intimidation in the late 1990s, I personally drew little comfort from such pithy assurances. We were promised better than the status quo. As such, I cannot express anything approximating gratitude for the government's decision to straddle the political fence on this issue.

Instead, what they should have done was reaffirm their full support for our firearms community by acting favourably upon the common sense recommendations presented by their own firearms advisory committee. Most of the recommendations included in the report had been seen before. Many had actually been previously introduced in the myriad of government and private members bills aimed at firearms law reform that failed prior to the success of C-19. Viewed objectively, the latter bill was quite limited in scope and barely scratched the surface in terms of fulfilling long-standing Conservative promises to deliver expansive firearms law reform.

Interim Liberal leader, Bob Rae, perhaps sensing the government's reluctance to toe the line successfully backed the PM into a corner during Question Period. Attacked on the basis of the composition of the CFAC and the tone of the recommendations it had presented, the Prime Minister, rather than dismissing Rae's contentions that change was

needed, did not rule out the idea. In response to Rae's demands for "wider representation" on the committee, Harper acknowledged that he was, "... obviously very concerned with some of the recommendations made in that [CFAC] report." He continued, saying, "I think the committee does need some re-examination in that light."

Shortly thereafter Public Safety Minister Toews issued a media release stating that Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee members Linda Baggaley, a firearms expert and dealer from Alberta, Gerry Gamble, of The Sporting Clubs of Niagara, and Kerry Higgins, a Saskatoon gunsmith, had been removed from CFAC. After thanking them for their service, the release went on to state that the government was immediately appointing a new trio of committee members consisting of two police chiefs and one police union leader to fill the newly created vacancies. This trio of newly anointed government appointees included Calgary police Chief Rick

Hanson, Winnipeg Police Association president Mike Sutherland, and Chief Constable Bob Rich of the Abbotsford, B.C., police force.

After hearing about the unexpected shake-up at CFAC, the incensed shouts of "They sold the shop! They sold the shop!" made by then-Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford, (in response to a long-ago perceived betrayal of his province's interests by Ottawa), immediately sprung to my mind. That the government had seemingly caved under the added pressure from the gun control lobby was a bitter pill to swallow. In retrospect, the lack of consultation with stakeholders and committee members, and the rather off-handed manner in which Baggaley, Higgins and Gamble were unceremoniously dumped, was quite unexpected and unsettling. The government's actions were rather churlish from my perspective and they have continued to resonate in the back of my mind. Yet, of even greater concern was who the minister had actually

named to replace them.

In the two decades that Canada's National Firearms Association has been fighting against the C-17/C-68 gun control system, Canada's political chiefs of police have almost always sided with the gun-grabbers. For the most part, groups like the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and even the Canadian Police Association (ostensibly "representing" the interests of rank-and-file officer) have wholeheartedly embraced universal firearms registration and gun bans. For the most part, they have consistently shared the same belief held by the chief architect of the Liberal's draconian gun control program, that only the police and military should have guns.

With Canada's National Firearms Association having gone head-to-head with the CACP, the CPA and various political chiefs as recently as last spring over Bill C-19 and the battle to end the long gun registry, I became more than irate to learn that our firearms



community would be forced to accept and accommodate the same antagonistic perspectives within the CFAC committee itself. Certainly, it is the right of the Minister to remove and appoint anyone he so desires, but I cannot help but ask the question was such a decision justified? Equally troubling is the lack of debate and discussion with stakeholders over the committee's report and the rather one-sided nature of the appointments themselves.

Some commentators and even fellow stakeholders, including gun owners, have dismissed the impromptu changes to the CFAC membership roster as simply a "bookkeeping" exercise and that too much shouldn't be read into the Minister's decision.

There is no question that things could've turned out much worse. I shudder to think of ardent anti-gun advocates like Chief Bill Blair or current Ontario CFO Chris Wyatt being appointed to the committee. In that regard, my discontent

is somewhat mitigated by the fact that Chief Hanson has been a long-term critic of the failed long-gun registry, as was Chief Rich. The latter, however, is also on record as supporting a complete ban on handguns and the civilian ownership of so-called "assault rifles" in Canada. Rich, my sources tell me, is also the driving force behind a controversial B.C. gun buy-back program slated to kick-off this June. Given his radically anti-gun views I can't help but worry that he will prove to be the proverbial "spoiler" in the midst of the committee. How that will impact the work of the committee or its future efficacy only time will tell.

As for the final member of the law-and-order troika of appointees, Mike Sutherland, he remains an unknown quantity. Subscribers to the Winnipeg Sun may be familiar with opinion pieces published under his by-line, but there appears to be little additional information in the public realm regarding his views on gun control or firearms law reform. We can only hope his personal views are

more closely aligned with those of Chief Hanson than Chief Rich.

Perhaps in anticipation of the criticism that was sure to follow from the firearms community, a spokeswoman for Public Safety Minister Vic Toews argued after the announcement that the government had actually "strengthened" the committee's membership with the new additions. Government spokeswoman, Julie Carmichael, in a written e-mail response to follow-up questions about the shake-up stated that, "We [the Conservative government] look forward to hearing the advice of the committee to further strengthen our firearms laws through common sense reforms."

Really?!?

Canadian firearms owners have consistently supported the Conservative Party of Canada, as we did its ideological forbearers, the short-lived Canadian Alliance and its grandsire, the much beloved Reform Party. Through unflagging loyalty, countless thousands



EACH ONE OF US IS..

An ambassador, a teacher, and a member. One of the most important functions of Canada's National Firearms Association is making firearms ownership and use relevant to growing numbers of Canadians.

To prosper, we must have a steady flow of new shooters and enthusiasts entering our proud firearms heritage.

Your membership and your donations to Canada's National Firearms Association are helping us develop the programs Canada needs to make sure our firearms heritage continues to grow.

I want to help Make It Happen!

Here is my contribution to **CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION** to help protect my rights to own and use firearms.

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$ _____

☐ My Cheque or Money Order enclosed

☐ Charge my Visa/MasterCard/AMEX

Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Ph.: _____ Fx.: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail this form to: Canada's National Firearms Association, Box 49090, Edm., AB T6E 6H4
or **Call our Toll Free Number at 1-877-818-0393**

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

of volunteer hours and unceasing financial support and sacrifice, Canadian gun owners have earned the right to expect a certain level of respect and loyalty from the Conservatives. Promises were made, and pretending that the latter were fully satisfied by scrapping the long-gun registry isn't going to make it anymore true.

Perhaps it is a symptom of just how out of touch the current Minister and his staff within the Department of Public Safety are. Howsoever, it is ludicrous to expect gun owners to buy the government's fiction that the summary dismissal of Baggaley, Gamble and Higgins, and that the appointment of a troika of law-enforcement representatives, who at best are only moderately hostile to civilian firearms ownership, would somehow "strengthen our firearms laws.

Poppycock!

At best, this is a case of a disinterested Minister, with long-standing law-enforcement sympathies, opting to straddle the fence and maybe placate the more vocal elements of Canada's civil disarmament lobby. If so, someone needs to remind the minister that the danger of straddling a fence is that you get splinters in your keister. If such is the case, perhaps the time has come for a cabinet shuffle and an injection of new blood into the portfolio? I know that Canada's National Firearms Association is one such "splinter" that isn't going to disappear anytime soon, and we are not willing to accept any sort of self-serving band-aid solution that fails to serve the best interests of Canada's firearms community.

That said, I take some small-comfort in the fact that the

new appointments have done little to stave off government criticism by gun control advocates and the hardcore gun-banner set. As almost any gun owner could tell you, the latter will never be satisfied until their every demand is met, and that will ultimately mean complete civil disarmament.

At the end of the day, respect remains a two-way street and given their clumsy handling of this CFAC affair, an argument may be made that the current government is losing sight of this simple truth. I realize that I am perhaps opening myself up to charges of making a mountain out of molehill, simply because the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee is largely unknown to the vast majority of Canadian gun owners; and in the grand scheme of things it remains a relatively unimportant government committee. But for those of us on the frontlines, it remains an important conduit to the public policy-making process as it relates to firearms law reform. As such, my fear is that familiarity has bred contempt in Ottawa and that the support of the firearms community is being taken for granted. I cannot help but wonder if the Harper government's seeming weakening-stance on the proposed United Nations Arms Trade Treaty is but another symptom of this.

There are certainly occasions in practical politics where you have to "go-along" to "get-along," but not when the stakes are this high. As such, I would argue that it is in the best interests of all gun owners to let the Harper government know that we've had our fill of having our firearm rights sacrificed on the altar of political correctness. Only time will tell if my fears are unfounded, but for now I'm making sure the Conservatives know my feelings on the issue. I suggest that you do so as well.

Editor...Continued from Page 4

Realistically, the Conservatives cannot hope to perpetually form Government. There will eventually come a time and place when another party replaces them. With the exception of the CPC, all the other major political parties support further gun prohibitions and civilian disarmament.

All it would take would be the election of a single hostile government possessing their own civil disarmament agenda. In combination with the C-68 Firearms Act, a ratified ATT would give any such government both the means and the justification to impose complete civil disarmament upon Canadians. With property rights specifically not protected under the Charter of Rights, law-abiding Canadian gun owners would have no recourse but to comply, or face the consequences. That is a future I want no part of.

Luckily, there is still time to make your voice heard in Ottawa! The Conservatives have shown us that they are not necessarily wed to any one particular UN initiative or agenda and they have proven willing to assume contrarian positions to that of previous Liberal governments at the United Nations. Yet, they remain political pragmatists and the degree to which they may oppose or support ratification will depend on how much political pressure both sides can bring to bear; and exactly how many Canadian voters are concerned about this issue.

If Canada's gun owners fail to act decisively now, our government will most likely acquiesce to international pressure and ratify the treaty. Not because they support it philosophically, but because they find themselves under greater pressure to comply and have more to lose by not doing so. It may be clichéd to say, but the world really is run by those who show up.

Canadian gun owners still have an opportunity to flip the above apocalyptic scenario in our favour by simply letting government know that as concerned voters, they absolutely oppose ratification of the UN ATT. I strongly urge everyone to call, write or email the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and your MP and let them know that you regard Canada's ratification of the UN Arms Trade Treaty as posing an unacceptable threat to Canadian gun rights and culture, and to Canada's sovereignty. Remember, no postage is necessary to write your MP, the Prime Minister or the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the addresses below.

Right Hon. Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
E-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

Hon. John Baird
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
E-mail: bairdj@parl.gc.ca



Member's Soapbox:

No Right to Bear Arms in Canada? You might want to recheck your history

By Chris McGarry

If there is one topic of conversation your average Joe Canuck takes pleasure in discussing over a cup of Tim Horton's coffee (besides hockey) it's the fact that we're not American.

Despite months of unending snow and cold, and short summers plagued by hazy, mosquito-choked skies, most of us living in the Great White North agree that we have it pretty darn good: we enjoy a health care system that's the envy of the world; a generous social safety net; education that's second to none; and in contrast to our "wild, unhinged cousins to the south," a peaceful, orderly, progressive "utopia" where no one needs guns to protect the lives of themselves or their loved ones; or has a right to for that matter! Or so the progressive-left would have you believe.

Much to my chagrin, many of my fellow frostbitten, beer-swillin', hockey-mad Canucks have bought into the latter fantasy, and have adopted the political left's not-so-subtle anti-American ideology as their own. I don't know if it's because this helps reinforce some over-inflated sense of moral superiority, or if it is a symptom of the past three decades of Liberal social re-engineering. Whatever the cause, it is ugly and it is wrong.

A key plank in this particular anti-American ideology is the rabid hatred of the so-called American "gun culture." A culture, they mistakenly believe could never flourish in such a "progressive" nation as Canada. In their estimation, gun owners, whether Canadian or American, are essentially little more than Neanderthals; throwbacks to a more savage age that is best forgotten. In their worldview, a gun is nothing more than an instrument of murder; something an advanced society such as Canada's need divest itself of forthwith. That Americans

still so fervently embrace the "gun" is sufficient to damn them as our inferiors.

Readers with anti-gun sympathies or having a measure of displaced patriotism may prefer to dismiss this commentary as little more than senseless, extreme-right drivel. To those I suggest you learn to think for yourselves. Please, take time from your busy lives to dust off the history books and seek the truth!

For over forty years you've all been lied to. You've all been the victims of a massive socio-political swindle engineered by a succession of Liberal and Red Tory governments; in collusion with Canada's "progressive" mainstream media and aided and abetted by a sympathetic left-wing academia. Contrary to what you've been told – the right to keep and bear arms is not exclusively an American liberty.

What, you say? That's preposterous! There is no right to bear arms in Canada. Never has been. Never will be. I beg to differ! The basis of our ancient English common law rights, the same laws and rights our own nation is built upon can be traced directly back to the Magna Carta of 1215. It enshrined the right of freemen to keep and bear arms for the defence of their homes and the nation.

Flash forward almost five centuries later to 1689. For the better part of fifty years, a continuous succession of internal conflicts destabilized England, which had been governed, albeit unsuccessfully, as a republic from 1649 – 1660. Though sympathetic to the Monarchy, our ancestors persevered to severely limit the power of the King and fought to place even stronger protections on their hard-won freedoms. This brought about the English Bill of Rights (where America's founding fathers derived the Second Amendment); a revision of our first great constitution, which unequivocally states: "Subjects which are Protestants may have

Arms for their Defence".

Okay, so times have changed, – just a bit. But I'm quite sure Catholics, as well as non-Christians and even atheists, are just as capable of exercising these same "God-given" or natural rights as their modern Protestant counterparts today.

This right to bear arms (which Lord William Blackstone declared to be 'absolute' in his commentaries on English law) was subsequently enshrined during Confederation in 1867 in our own British North America Act.

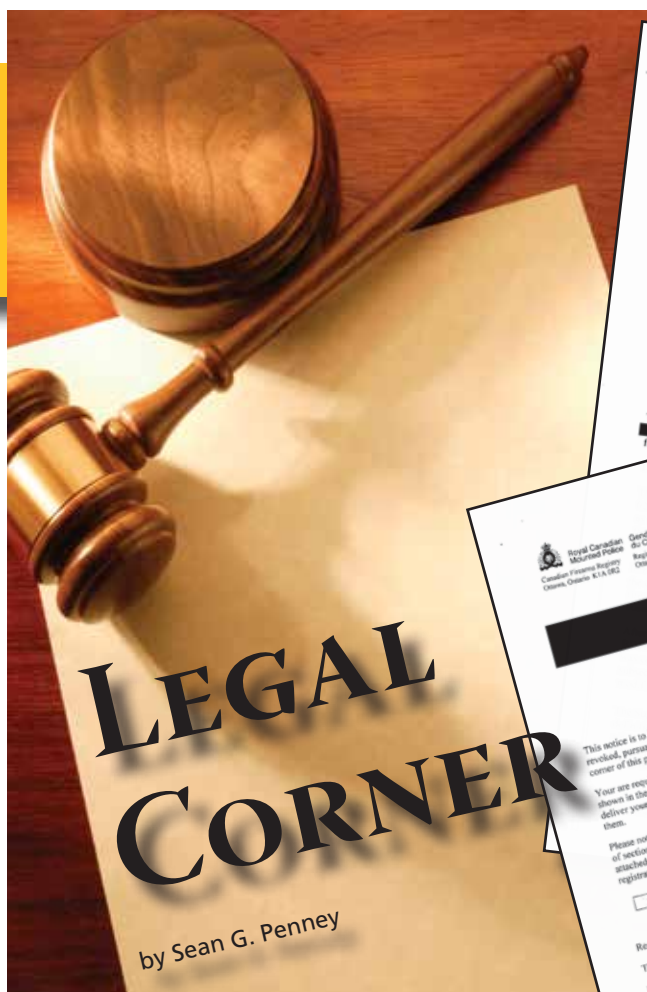
Be that as it may, gun control advocates have argued that such rights were not so protected under the 1982 Constitution Act that was repatriated by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau. They contend that during the repatriation process the greatest legal minds of the era simply "forgot" to incorporate the long-standing right of gun ownership into our constitution, – at least overtly.

Not to worry; these self-same rights are protected in other ways and were not lost simply because they were deleted from some list or another. If you refer to S.26 of the Charter of Rights, it states: "Certain rights and freedoms shall not be construed as denying the existence of any other rights or freedoms that exist in Canada."

In this day and age of legislated liberties, the concept of natural rights – especially in most developed nations (not just Canada) – has become almost as foreign as arranged marriages and public stonings.

Too often, people merely accept government-made laws that violate the same inalienable rights every man, woman and child on this planet is born with – the most important of which include the right to own arms for self-defence, freedom of expression and the right to own property.

Soapbox Continued on... Page 27



LEGAL CORNER

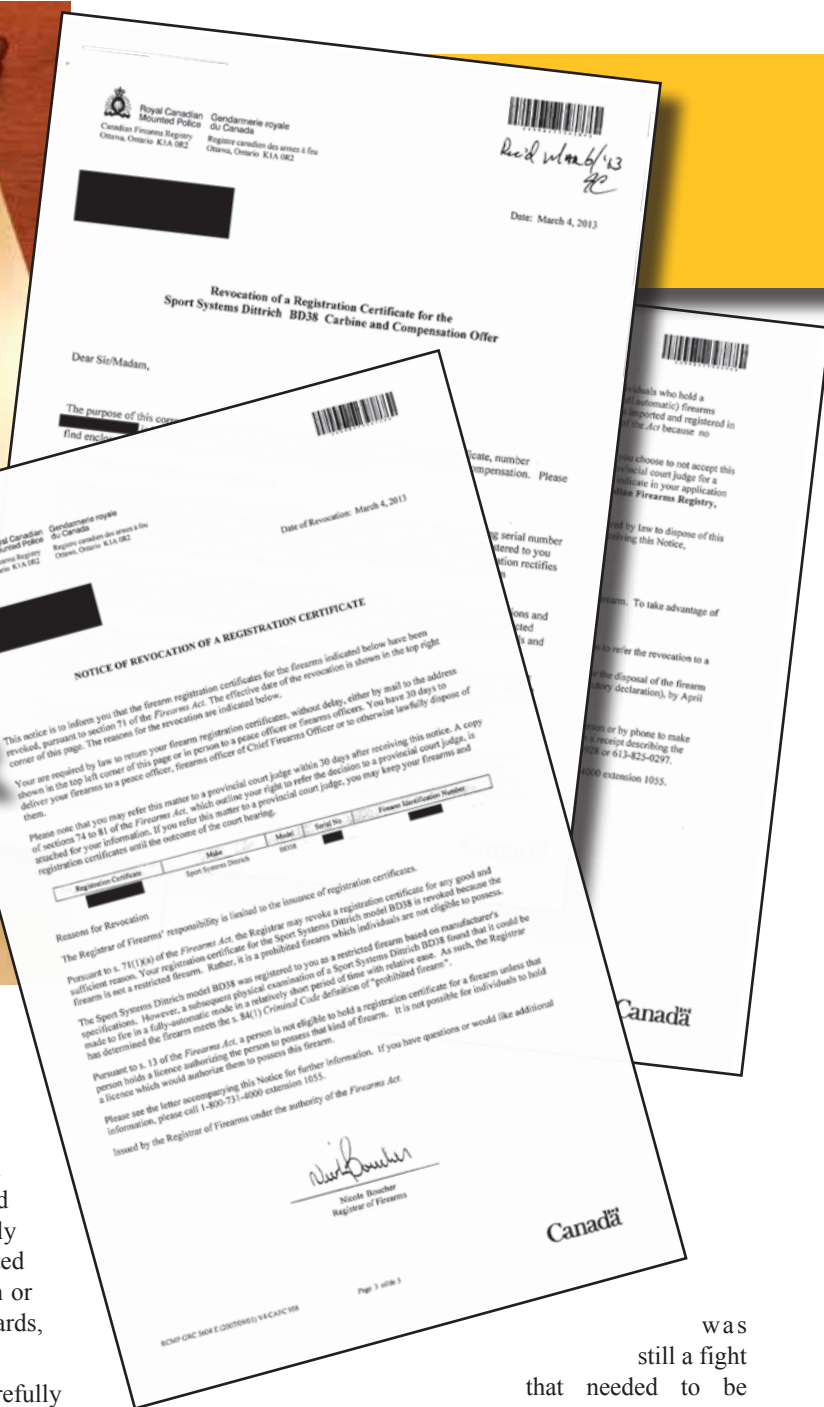
by Sean G. Penney

The RCMP recently sent out letters informing registered owners of semi-automatic Sport Systeme Diitrich (SSD) BD-38 carbines that their registration certificate had been revoked. The letter informed owners that all BD-38 carbines registered in Canada had been unilaterally reclassified as prohibited based upon the RCMP's determination that they could be "easily converted" to fully automatic fire. Owners were presented with the choice of turning the firearm in for destruction or having it professionally deactivated to current legal standards, rendering it nothing more than a \$3000.00 paperweight.

Canada's National Firearms Association has been carefully monitoring the status of the BD-38 and a number of other military-style semi-auto firearms rumored to be on a secret RCMP "hit list" for several years now. While talk of a secret "hit list" may have sounded more than a little farfetched five years ago, mounting evidence to the contrary would appear to give some credence to such a list existing.

In just the past couple of years Canadian gun owners have seen the Rossi Backpacker and High Standard 10B shotguns, along with the Norinco Type-97A, all unilaterally reclassified by the RCMP and subsequently banned. If you recall, Canada's National Firearms Association helped spearhead an enormously expensive, but ultimately unsuccessful legal challenge against the latter reclassification just last year.

While the NFA was bucking a stacked-deck from the start, it



was still a fight that needed to be fought given the precedent such a prohibition would set if left unchallenged.

After extensive consultation with stakeholders, firearms lawyers, sympathetic politicians and key advocacy groups at the time, a consensus was reached that if Canada's National Firearms Association and similar groups did not opt to fight at least some of these battles, with or without the support of Canada's general gun-buying community, we'd inevitably see many more incidents of the RCMP unilaterally reclassifying legal firearms and ordering their prohibition. Unfortunately, these most recent reclassifications have proven such fears were not misplaced.

The BD-38 -

The first Firearms Reference Table (FRT) record for the SSD

RCMP: RECLASSIFICATION OF SSD MODEL BD-38 CARBINE

Beware the low-hanging fruit.

RECLASSIFIED!!



Die Selbstladebüchse BD 38
Längsschnitt

BD-38 was created in February of 2007. It was classified as restricted based upon manufacturer's specifications and the criteria laid-out under subsection 84(1) of the *Criminal Code*. According to the original importer, they had obtained samples of SSD's entire line of newly-manufactured, civilian-legal reproductions of WWII era German small arms, including the BD-3008, BD-38, BD-42 and the BD-44. The samples were subsequently submitted to the RCMP for examination, review and classification. At that time, the RCMP classified the BD-38 as a restricted class firearm, based upon its barrel length. They were then approved for import and retail sale throughout Canada.

Externally, the BD-38 was specifically designed to resemble the famed German MP-38 machine pistol or submachine gun of WWII. Called the "Schmeisser" by some, it was essentially a niche-market firearm that would appeal to a select segment of the Canadian firearms community, -primarily those owners who had a special interest in historically significant firearms, and/or who lacked the necessary prohibited endorsements or grandfathered status required to legally own an original MP-38. Limited manufacturing runs and necessarily high retail price tags ensured that it would never enjoy great commercial success.

Nevertheless, the manufacturer specifically designed the firearm from the start to be a civilian-legal, semi-automatic only carbine that would not accept any full-auto parts. A working sample of the carbine was submitted to the RCMP firearms lab for testing and evaluation to determine its suitability for import and to have an FRT number assigned to it in order to permit its registration as a restricted class firearm. Once issued, retail sales of the carbine commenced and continued until July of last year, when all further transfers were halted by the RCMP.

Prohibit & Revoke -

With the reclassification of the SSD BD-38, and its product-

line sibling the BD-3008, a clear pattern is emerging and it has become quite obvious that the figurative "low-hanging fruit" found on the CFP's Firearms Reference Table is the primary target. Consider for a moment the fact that each of the firearms recently banned by the RCMP share certain common characteristics.

Charitably, the external appearance of the Rossi Backpacker, the High Standard 10B, Norinco Type-97A, the BD-38 and BD-3008 can best described as "ugly." To non-gun owners, it could be argued that they look downright "scary." Human psychology being what it is there are few people who would be interested in championing the cause of such "ugliness," unless they were directly affected by the ban.

Furthermore, all of the firearms in question were quite rare in Canada, and were only sold in very small or limited quantities, with relatively few actually registered to individual owners. For instance, there were barely three dozen Norinco Type-97A carbines in private hands at the time of their prohibition. There were even fewer examples of such firearms as the High Standard 10B. Thanks to Freedom of Information Act requests filed by the NFA, RCMP documents tell us that as of August 8, 2012 there were just 77 BD-38 carbines registered in Canada. Of these 77, there were 65 carbines registered to individuals; 10 to businesses; and two in police custody.

Obviously there are fewer eyebrows to be raised if you ban an ugly gun that only a handful of Canadians own, -than if you went after something much more popular, such as your standard Remington 700 or Winchester Model 70 deer rifle. In effect, the RCMP is counting on the disinterest and apathy that have become enduring characteristics of far too many members of the gun-buying public. If the few thousand dollars our firearms

Legal...Continued On Page 44



SAVAGE INTERNATIONAL TROPHY HUNTER

By Jeff Helsdon

Beyond all the hype and advertising, one of the signs of success for a particular gun is demand. The new Savage Arms International Trophy Hunter series has been so successful the manufacturer can't keep up with orders.

The International Trophy Hunter is the latest offering from Savage's popular package series featuring a gun and scope combination. Introduced last year, it is the first package series with the famed AccuTrigger and also sports a handy three-position thumb safety.

The International Trophy Hunter is available in several different models. Model 10/110 International Trophy Hunter is a traditional wood stocked model with a blued barrel. Model 11/111 is the composite stock version. The Model 11 International Trophy Hunter XP is only available in short action calibers and sports a youth-sized stock that will better fit shooters with slighter frames. Model 16/116 features a stainless steel barrel and composite stock. There are also two Model 10 XP Predator Hunter models available with 4-12 scopes and different camo finishes.

All have detachable box magazines, are available in both right and left-hand models and the International models sport a Weaver scope. The difference in the numbers refers to long action and short action calibers. For instance, the Model 110 is for long action calibers and the Model 10 is the short action.

The caliber range within the package series is pretty broad, with more than a dozen options ranging from .204 Ruger to .338 Winchester Magnum and .375 Ruger. Most of the standards are covered by the Savage line, but there are some individual chambering, such as the 6.5mm Creedmoor, that are specific to certain models.



Several magnum calibers are covered, including the aforementioned .338, .270 Winchester Short Magnum, .300 Winchester Short Magnum, .300 Winchester Magnum and 7mm Remington Magnum

Savage's package series are part of the reason the company has become the number one long gun manufacturer in North America. The company's Axis line led the way with a rifle that quickly gained a reputation for offering exceptional accuracy at a great price point. According to Bill Dermody of Savage Arms, the Axis series remains the company's best seller. Building upon that initial success, Savage recently launched several additional upgraded rifle package lines that aimed to offer buyers the extra bells and whistles they demanded, without sacrificing the built-in value of the Axis line.

Next, in terms of price and quality, is Savage's Hunter line. The latter improves on the overall finish quality of the Axis, but does not have an AccuTrigger. The Hunter line comes with a Bushnell 3-9 power scope.

Guns in the Trophy Hunter line feature Nikon scopes in the United States, while the International Trophy Hunter is sold with a Weaver optic. Dermody explained Savage was able to reach a deal for packaging the guns with Nikon USA, but not with the international subsidiaries of



the company. Consequently, guns outside the country are shipped with Weaver optics.

My original intention was to test a Model 111 in .30-06 Springfield. Since I had planned to include a hunting field test as part of my review, I needed to have the test rifle in my hands prior to the start of last November's deer hunt. Tight deadlines and an unanticipated local product shortage necessitated that I substitute Savage's Model 110, for the Model 111 I had originally hoped to review. Since its release, the Trophy Hunter package line has quickly become Savage's second best seller.

Before ordering my test gun, I thoroughly researched it, Savage Arms and the AccuTrigger, to help in making my selection. Three main points stuck out: Savage had a reputation for accuracy, reliability and they offered their product at a very attractive price point. From the perspective of your average bargain hunter, it is hard to argue that you don't get a lot of gun for the money with a Savage rifle. While most liked the Savage's price, opinions were mixed over the value of its AccuTrigger. Some loved it, others absolutely hated it.

Esthetically, even fans of the rifle grudgingly admitted Savage rifles would win few beauty contests, especially when compared to the classic lines and finely machined steel of their competitors. However, there is an argument to be made that "ugly" or not, Savage rifles shoot and that's all that really matters!

The Model 110, in the new International Trophy Hunter

line is no different. "Ugly" or not, the Savage Model 110 has proven staying power, with the original Model 110 having been first introduced in 1958. Back then it made waves as an economical alternative to the big three North American gun manufacturers, and was well-known for its accuracy. The same remains true today, and the Model 110 is the oldest bolt-action rifle continuously manufactured in the United States.

Fast-forward 55 years and I opened the box containing my test Model 110 International Trophy Hunter with unexpected anticipation. I was to be pleasantly surprised by what I discovered. After a quick examination, I concluded that the International Trophy Hunter really wasn't such a bad-looking gun after all. The wood was decent, with a dark walnut stain. Examining the checkering closely, it was obvious it was pressed in the wood, but looked fine unless you were looking for flaws. Metal work was equally well done.

Sure, it didn't have a rosewood pistol grip cap or fancy fore-end tip of a more upscale Remington 700 BDL, but in its defence, the Savage is built to service an entirely different price point than the latter rifle.

As shipped, the Savage's bolt handle had a small amount of knurling on the top, something that any hunter would immediately appreciate. Knurling not only adds to the rifle's esthetics, but also assists with more positive handling in wet weather or with gloved hands. The bolt itself was jeweled with the Savage name and logo stenciled on it. The barrel was a black matte finish

– technically a media-blast surface preparation with a black oxide finish.

All in all, I thought it was a pretty decent-looking gun.

Although I didn't have a composite-stocked gun to make a direct comparison, from what I gather the Savage composite stock lacks the inserts and the contoured lines some manufacturers use. Again, one has to remember you get what you pay for and question how practical some of the cosmetic features really are.

All models come standard with a synthetic factory recoil pad. For the .30-06 I tested, it did a reasonable job of taming recoil.

All guns in Savage's package series include a detachable magazine. In this case, the magazine is metal with a composite bottom.

The one thing that really sets the Savage apart from its competitors, however, is the AccuTrigger. This two-stage trigger is user-adjustable, from 2.5 to 6 pounds, using a special tool that comes with the gun. It was actually the first easily-adjusted trigger that was commercially successful. When first released there really was nothing comparable on the market. Some argue that it was the AccuTrigger that is primarily responsible for Savage's meteoric climb to the top of the retail heap. "That feature is what put Savage on the map," Dermody said. "We were nobody until then."

Initially, I have to admit, the AccuTrigger took a little getting used to. The two-stage trigger requires more pressure to release the sub-blade and then less pressure for the main trigger. However, I quickly grew accustomed to it and eventually found I liked it. When it came to hunting, I never even thought about the AccuTrigger – it worked seamlessly.

The Trophy Hunter is the first package series gun that also included the AccuTrigger, which might help account for its popularity.

In terms of the rifle's ergonomics, the one thing I did notice about the Savage was that it had a different feel than the Winchester or Remington rifles I was more familiar with. The Trophy Hunter seemed lighter and pointed differently. After handling the gun at the range and during a hunting trip, I found I liked the feel of the gun and how it handled.

Before going afield, however, it was necessary to check zero and put the rifle through some standard accuracy testing from the bench. This would also give me a better idea of the Savage's true accuracy potential. At the range, I discovered that the rifle was bore sighted well enough out of the box to put the first shot on the target at 100 yards. Initial testing was carried out with the 180 grain Federal Power Shok load. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to get Savage to group anywhere near MOA; with the best group about 1.5 inches. Switching to Federal Fusion – a mid-priced load – and it was a whole

different story. The best three shot group was right on one inch, but there were several pairs of shots within a half-inch and even a couple touching. With a little more load experimentation and practice, I am quite sure it is capable of consistent sub-MOA groups.

Unlike some of its competitors, Savage doesn't offer an accuracy guarantee. Dermody explained accuracy could be affected by ammunition and shooter ability. He did say if there were a problem, the company would fix or replace the firearm.

Bolt removal with the Savage is a little different than most guns. It requires squeezing the trigger while hitting the bolt release button in front of the trigger guard. This is a little more complicated than on many bolt-action rifles. I figure one can look at the operation as either an added safety measure, to prevent accidentally hitting the button and dropping the bolt unintentionally, or as being overly cumbersome, - if you're looking for a reason to dislike the rifle.

Optically, the included Weaver Kasper scope is near the bottom end of the company's line, but still gives good value for the money. It's a matte black scope in 3-9 power. The eye relief on the scope is generous, meaning it isn't as critical to have your head in a sweet spot in order to see the full scope picture. While this is irrelevant at the range, it comes in handy in fast-shooting hunting situations. The scope has three lines for bullet drop compensation at various distances.

One true test of a scope is how well it performs in low-light hunting conditions. I took a deer with the rifle with just 10 minutes of light left on an overcast day this past fall. When I first spotted the deer coming in, and put the gun to my shoulder, the Weaver actually gathered enough light to make the situation look appreciably brighter. I was impressed.

Out of curiosity, I did a visual test, comparing the Weaver's brightness against an older mid-line scope from one of the top manufacturers, and the Weaver proved brighter.

As of last fall, Dermody said backorders for the Trophy Hunters were running approximately 22 weeks behind. In light of recent events, and fears over new gun control measures proposed by the Obama administration, there has been a rash of panic-buying in the USA. Under current circumstances it is a safe bet that the wait time on backorders is even longer today.

Incidentally, Savage recently spent \$14 million enlarging its manufacturing facility and hired an additional 200 workers in order to expand its overall production capacity. Unfortunately, those steps have done little to resolve their growing backorder situation or reduce delivery wait times. "As production increased, so too did demand," Dermody said.

If your intentions are to add a Savage package gun for hunting this fall, you better order it now.



Concerned about the Arms Trade Treaty?

By Sheldon Clare

Photo Credits: Oleg Volk

You should be. The Arms Trade Treaty has not yet been ratified in Canada. It was passed in the UN General Assembly, but to take effect, individual countries must decide whether or not to ratify it. If most countries in the world ratify the treaty, it will become the international standard. Canada's National Firearms Association has significant concerns about the Arms Trade Treaty and believes that it will affect Canadian firearms owners.

Canada's National Firearms Association was at the ATT talks to defend your rights. We were the only Canadian firearms organization present to fight for firearms owners by presenting our case.

The Canadian government was one of the few at the Arms Trade Treaty talks that argued to protect the rights of Canadian firearms owners by insisting that the treaty bring no new burdens to Canadians. The Canadian government fought for and was able to achieve some helpful preamble language that recognized some legitimate civilian uses for firearms that should not be harmed by this treaty.

However, the treaty as passed at the UN contains a number of significant flaws that have the potential to add significant burdens to Canadian firearms owners. We believe that the treaty is vague and its various articles contain significant flaws. One of the most egregious is that in **no place is the right of personal self-defence protected**. Among other problems, the treaty refers to "national control systems" and "lists" which directly refer to licensing and registration systems which the peer-reviewed research demonstrates do not affect criminal

activity with firearms. The text of the treaty is available at this link: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/ATT/> It is listed under "Essential Documents, Draft Arms Trade Treaty Text" and includes the ATT as passed in several languages.

Canada's National Firearms Association recommends that Canada does not support the Arms Trade Treaty. Our position is that the present domestic burdens on Canadian firearms owners are already excessive, and the effect of this treaty would be to add more onerous and costly requirements for firearms ownership, as well as build further disrespect for firearms law. In our opinion this treaty appears to be in direct conflict with the stated aims of the Government in regards to not having any new burdens for firearms owners.

Take the time to be informed about the ATT, and if you agree that you should be concerned about this treaty then we urge you to contact Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird at:

bairdj@parl.gc.ca

or in writing to:

**Hon. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6.**

Send a copy of your message to us and to your MP.

Thank Minister Baird for standing up for Canadians and ask him not to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty. Tell him that Canada's National Firearms Association speaks for you.

www.nfa.ca

Soapbox Continued From ... Page 21

In April 2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper took a small, though significant, step towards restoring these inviolable freedoms by dismantling the hated long-gun registry. In spite of this small victory, much work remains before gun ownership can once again be firmly established within the larger Canadian dialectic and openly acknowledged as an unassailable, inherent right held by every Canadian. What it most certainly is not is a mere 'privilege' that may be given or taken away at the whim of some unelected civil servant within Ottawa's gun control bureaucracy. Don't believe the anti-gun propaganda the gun banners are peddling.

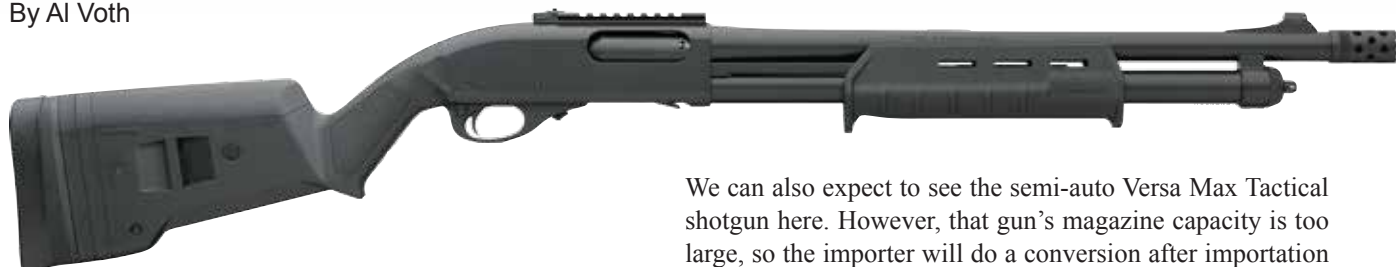
It has been said time and again that individuals who don't know their rights technically don't have any. Perhaps it's high time we, as a society, became less complacent and more familiar with our natural rights. We must vigorously oppose those politicians and bureaucrats who so callously wish to extinguish them. Because at the end of the day, the only rights we truly have are the ones we are willing to fight for.

Chris McGarry is a freelance writer who lives in Prince Edward Island



SHOT SHOW 2013 TRENDS

By Al Voth



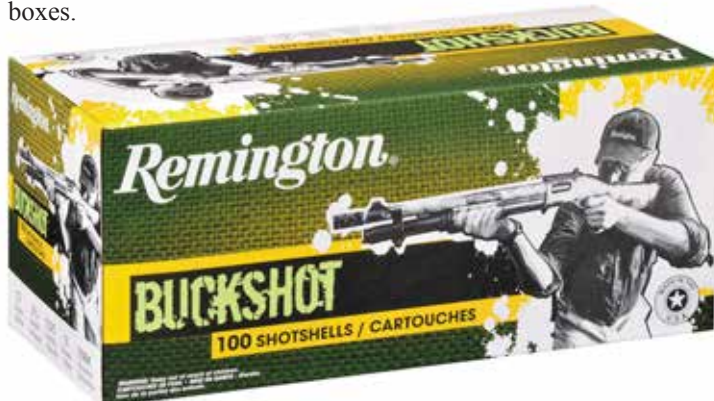
As promised, here's SHOT report #2, a look at black guns and handguns. We checked out some overall trends in the last issue of this magazine and will look at more traditional guns in the next one, but this one is for the black guns and for handguns. Note that I'll be largely ignoring guns and accessories that are obviously prohibited in Canada and will never see this side of the border except in the hands of a criminal.

SHOTGUNS

I spent some time with the Canadian importer of Remington firearms and he told me we'll see the new 870 Tactical in Canada. This looks like a worthy addition to the legendary 870 family, in that it has an 18.5" barrel, Cerakote finish, muzzle brake, one piece mag tube for 8+1 capacity, a rail, XS sights and Magpul furniture. Price should be in the mid eight hundred range.

We can also expect to see the semi-auto Versa Max Tactical shotgun here. However, that gun's magazine capacity is too large, so the importer will do a conversion after importation to make it non restricted.

If you shoot 3-gun and go through a lot of buckshot, you'll be happy to hear Remington is going to start producing value packs of buckshot loads. These will be twenty-five and one hundred round boxes containing a 2 3/4" load that will spew 9 pellets at 1325 fps. I don't have a price, but it will certainly be cheaper than buying this ammo in the usual five round boxes.





Adaptive Tactical is a relatively young company, but they've got some bright ideas. My favourite is a box magazine conversion for shotguns. They're kit will convert the Mossberg 500 so it operates from a detachable 5 round box or 10 round rotary magazine. I asked about converting the 870

as well, but was told it would require gunsmith work because that shotgun has a permanently attached magazine tube. This kit is supposed to be something you can do yourself. But they also sell already converted shotguns.

RIFLES AND CARBINES

If you already own a TAVOR® SAR, then IWI has a conversion kit for your rifle that will turn a 5.56 NATO into a 9mm in about 10 minutes. Cost will be about \$1000. I was told the magazine is unique to this gun, therefore likely limiting allowable capacity to five rounds. Before you see it in Canada, it will need a longer barrel, but that shouldn't be a problem considering IWI's apparent willingness to make minor production changes to meet legal requirements.



Caracal has added a 9mm carbine to their line of handguns. But the model I saw had a 16" barrel so I commented that it was too short for the Canadian market. A factory production manager standing nearby said "It's not a problem to make a longer barrel." So maybe a Canadian entrepreneur will step up and make an order. These are only available in 9X19mm initially, but other calibres might show up in the future. The magazine this carbine uses is identical to their pistol magazine, so ten rounds should be acceptable.



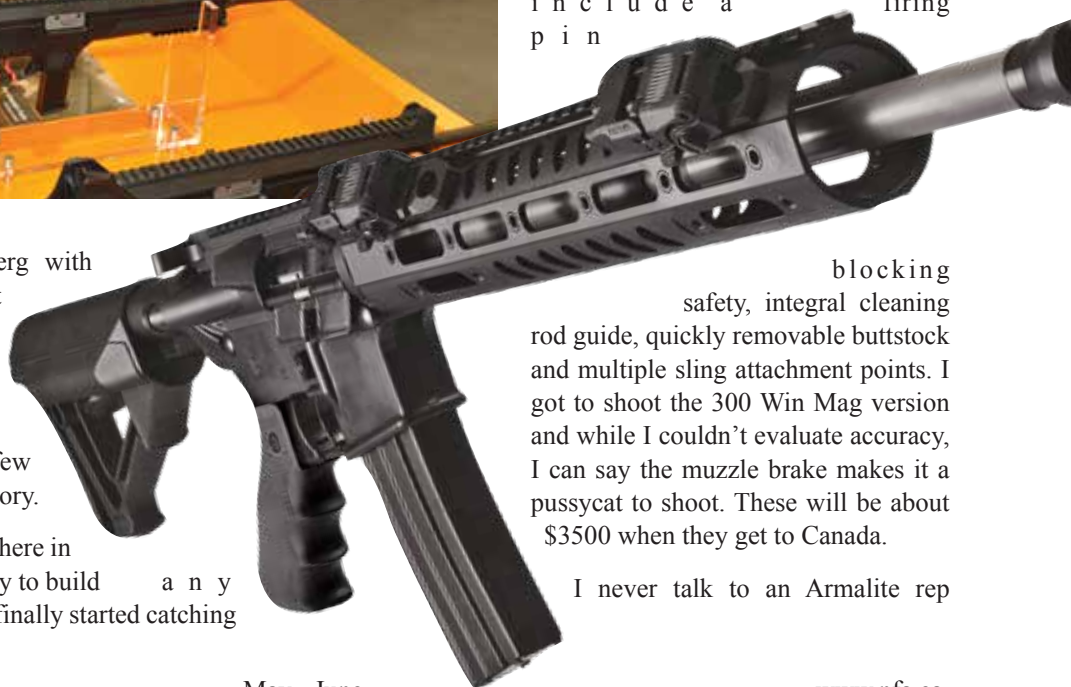
I peppered the folks at Mossberg with questions about why we haven't seen the MVP series of rifles in Canada yet—for the unacquainted that's their line of bolt rifles in 223 Remington that use AR magazines. There were a few knowing nods and then I got the story.

"These guns have been so popular here in the US, we haven't had the capacity to build a n y for export," I was told. "When we finally started catching

up, the State Department told us we couldn't export them because they were marked as being calibre 5.56mm NATO. Fine, so we got that straightened out, and started a Canadian SKU. Then we tried to get our magazine manufacturer to make us five round mags for the Canadian market. That was about the time the magazine market went crazy and no one has capacity to make five round magazines these days," he said. "It's been one problem after another. We'll get some there eventually, maybe even this summer."

Of course, there were more AR rifles on display than I could count and as I write this demand is so great for them in the USA that it's tough getting any into Canada. Nonetheless, one new model I like is the DPMS 3G2. This is a rifle built for 3-gun competition and features a two-stage trigger, angle-mounted Magpul sights, the same firm's STR stock and a Miculek compensator mounted on the end of a 16" barrel. It looks like a good way to start into action rifle shooting for about \$1300.

Armalite usually has something interesting to shoot at SHOT and they didn't disappoint this year. Their new AR-30A1 is an improved version of the old AR-30. It's available in 300 Win. Mag. and 338 Lapua. Improvements include a firing pin



blocking safety, integral cleaning rod guide, quickly removable buttstock and multiple sling attachment points. I got to shoot the 300 Win Mag version and while I couldn't evaluate accuracy, I can say the muzzle brake makes it a pussycat to shoot. These will be about \$3500 when they get to Canada.

I never talk to an Armalite rep



without asking about the extinct AR-180B, as it's the closest thing to a non-restricted AR ever allowed into Canada. In past years I was told it's dead, but this year I was told the new version has been "delayed." If that's the case, I have no doubt it's because the overwhelming demand for real AR's isn't allowing for much new product development. Maybe some day we'll see it in production again.

The Canadian firm MDT from Chilliwack, B.C. had a booth at SHOT this year. Their well established TAC-21 modular chassis was the centrepiece, but they've added some additional items this year. First, the forend is now available with a deep scallop on the top, thus allowing a scope with a large objective lens to sit lower to the receiver. Additionally, they have a couple of buttplate refinements for the Magpul series of AR buttstocks that allow extensive adjustments to fit the shooter. Everything has the usual MDT quality.



Stepping down to airguns, Crosman has a new AR look-alike in a single shot break-barrel design. This gun is labelled the MSR77, uses their Nitro Piston technology as a power plant and is available in .177 only with a muzzle velocity of 1200 fps. All the AR "stuff" is just for looks, as it functions like a classic break barrel—pull down on the muzzle to cock and load the pellets.



HANDGUNS

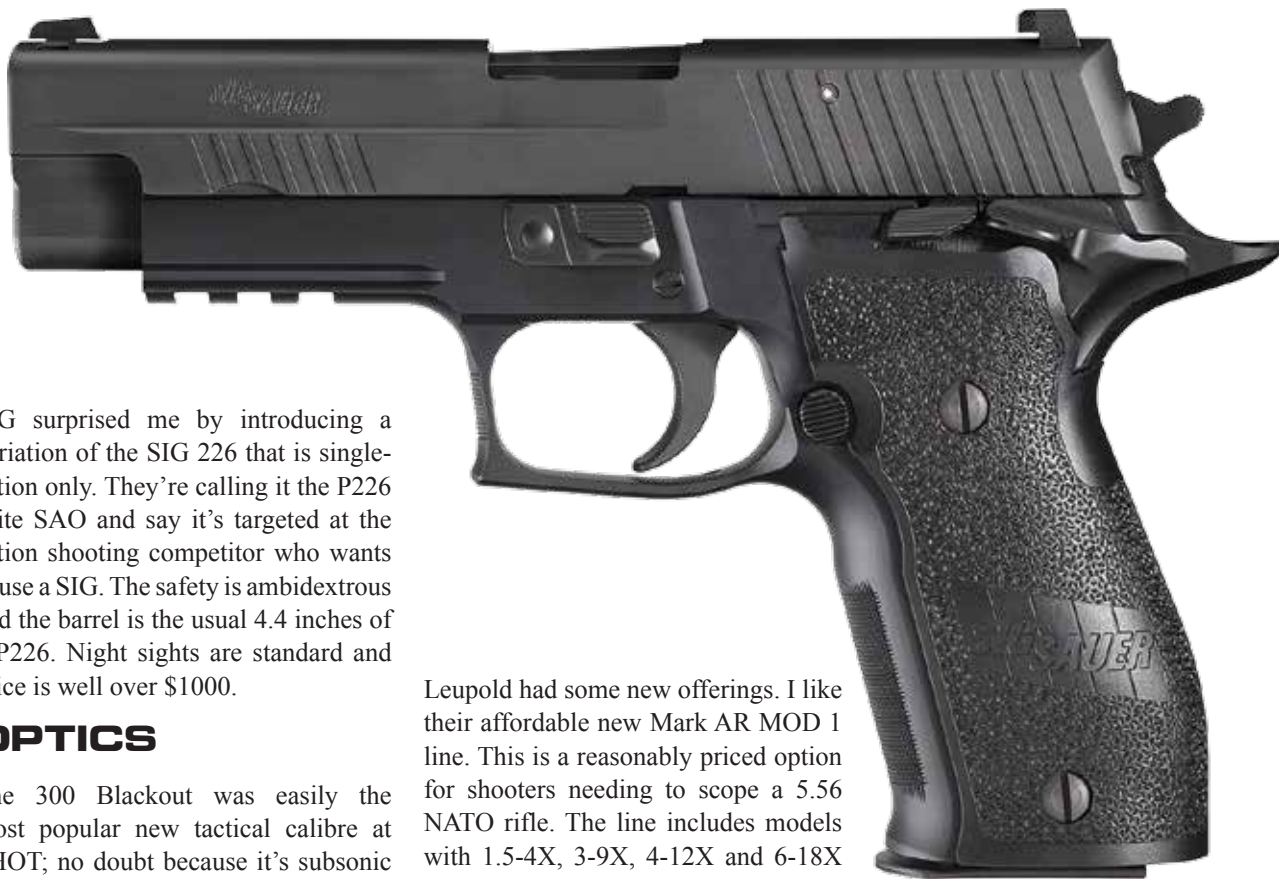
For FN fans, that company has introduced the FNS-9 with a five inch barrel. This will allow the FNS-9 into Canada, as it only came in a four inch version before. This model should be a great competition gun for action handgun games as the proportionately longer sight radius will yield a little more accuracy and velocity. The gun has two interchangeable backstraps and a safe-action trigger. I shot it and I like it.



Significant news for Glock fans is that Korth Group will be a new distributor for Glock in Canada. They'll be doing both law enforcement and civilians sales and considering their track record with the other lines they carry it should bode well for supply and service of Glock here in the great white north.

Fans of the 1911 should take a look at Remington's various offerings. I learned they are now the second largest 1911 producer in the USA. That's a long ways to travel in the short time they've been in the modern handgun market and it suggests they are producing great guns at a reasonable price. I like their new R1 Stainless Enhanced because of the stainless frame and slide, high visibility sights, match trigger, wide grip and thumb safeties and plenty of checkering and serrations. Price in Canada should be around a grand, with two magazines.

Steyr has a new pistol, that by virtue of a slightly longer (4.5") barrel will be legal in Canada. It's called the L9-A1 and is a polymer framed, safe-action design. Features include 9mm and 40 cal., ambi-convertible safety, loaded chamber indicator, low barrel axis, built-in keyed lock and a very reasonable price—likely less than \$600 in Canada.



SIG surprised me by introducing a variation of the SIG 226 that is single-action only. They're calling it the P226 Elite SAO and say it's targeted at the action shooting competitor who wants to use a SIG. The safety is ambidextrous and the barrel is the usual 4.4 inches of a P226. Night sights are standard and price is well over \$1000.

OPTICS

The 300 Blackout was easily the most popular new tactical calibre at SHOT; no doubt because it's subsonic version is so suited to suppressor use. EOTech was one company with a sight specifically made for this round. It has all the usual EOTech features and a reticle calibrated for both of the 300 Blackout's supersonic and subsonic versions.

Leupold had some new offerings. I like their affordable new Mark AR MOD 1 line. This is a reasonably priced option for shooters needing to scope a 5.56 NATO rifle. The line includes models with 1.5-4X, 3-9X, 4-12X and 6-18X magnification. Illuminated reticles are available on the two lower powered models and BDC turrets and reticles are standard across the board. Prices will run from \$350 to \$650 in Canada and you get the legendary Leupold warranty with servicing, custom dials and other work done here in Canada.

If you've got the means to spend more, there are somewhat similar versions available in the Mark 6 line. These are 34mm tubes, instead of one inch, with some great high-end features including a lock-at-zero elevation turret and reticles calibrated for your cartridge. Canadian prices will start at over \$2,000.

Vortex keeps expanding their optics line and one black rifle optic that caught my eye is their Razor 1-6X24. This unit is built on a 30mm tube with all the usual features of their top-end Razor line. It also has a MOA based reticle that provides ranging ability as well as bullet drop and wind drift references for the 5.56 NATO round from 100-700 yards. Price is in the \$2000 range.





MISCELLANEOUS

One of the most popular clothing lines for shooters is the 5.11 line. This is not only because they build a great product and also because of their extensive Canadian dealer network. Their line is now expanding from strictly professional gear, into lifestyle products as well. Therefore you'll see more casual and exercise clothing from this company. In keeping with this expansion their logo is changing from *5.11 Tactical* to *5.11 Always be Ready™*. But don't worry, they aren't abandoning the professional products that made them, they showed off all kinds of new professional tactical gear at SHOT, including entry tools, plate carriers, flashlights and clothing.



There it is, a small sample of what we can expect to see arrive at our dealers in the next year. Some of it is there already and other items might not make it across the border until next year at this time. Next month we'll look at the more traditional sporting arms.





THE RELOADING BENCH:

Testing Hodgdon's New Powders:

PART II - LEVERevolution®

By Bob Shell

The 2011 SHOT Show was all abuzz about the new high performance powders Hodgdon was finally releasing to the handloading marketplace. While their SUPERFORMANCE powder had an immediate impact upon the dedicated world of varmint hunters, it would not be wrong to argue that their new LEVERevolution was to be a game-changer for traditionalists and lever-action rifle aficionados. In combination with the release of Hornady's new lever-friendly line of FTX bullets, LEVERevolution powder would more than live up to the hype. Demand for the new powder was intense following its initial release, but thanks to the good graces of the gang at Hodgdon, I was successful in securing a sufficient quantity for field testing.

I selected a Marlin 336 with 20" barrel in .30-30 for the inaugural phase of testing. The .30-30 has been around for some 118 years and continues to be very popular as a short-range bush cartridge thanks to its easy handling and the relatively affordable cost of most firearms chambered in the venerable round. With the growing availability of the new LEVERevolution powder and Hornady FTX bullet line, I expect it will only continue to grow in popularity; especially as more owners realize that they may very well extend their effective hunting range by 100 yards or more.

Table 1. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .30-30 Winchester.

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
37 grs.	150 gr Barnes TSX	2385	nice load
36.5	160 Hornady FTX	2335	consistent
35	180 gr RN	2144	good load

Moving on from the .30-30, I next experimented with the .25-35 Winchester. It is another old timer that for some reason has refused to die. Those that like it, like it a lot and I have to admit it has a special place in my heart. For the sake of nostalgia, and more than a little curiosity, I opted to see what LEVERevolution could do for it as well. The normal factory load lists a 117 grain at some 2230 fps. With limited time and components on hand I was forced to try just a single load. As the results below show, it is possible to realize a 150 fps increase even in the 19th century .25-35, which may make it suitable for close range deer and similar thin-skinned game.

Table 2. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .25-35 Winchester.

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
26 grs.	117 Hornady RN	2386	nice load

Obviously, the Hornady FTX bullet works well with Hodgdon's LEVERevolution. However, what about handloaders who still prefer using a conventional round nose bullet, but are still interested in extending the effective range of their old Winchester or Marlin lever gun? Does LEVERevolution offer them anything?

To answer that question, let's consider the 1000 ft-lbs of energy benchmark most experts say is the minimum energy level required to reliably anchor a typical North American big game animal. You can probably boost the velocities of most traditional round nose bullets using LEVERevolution powder alone; often by as

much as a hundred fps or more. However, you would still have a ballistically inefficient bullet and, at most, you would gain only a few yards of useful range as a result of that increase in muzzle velocity. For instance, the ballistic coefficient of a Hornady 170 grain flat nose is 189, while the tipped FTX is 330, quite a disparity. In my opinion, it's not worth the time, effort or expense to mate LEVERevolution powder with traditional profile bullets, as the results of Table 3 below show.

Table 3. Comparison of the Hornady FTX bullet & traditional 150 gr RN .30-30 bullet.

BULLET (grs./make/style)	DISTANCE (yards)	VELOCITY (fps)	ENERGY (ft-lbs.)
150 gr RN	muzzle	2390	1902
	100	1959	1278
	200	1581	832
160 Hornady FTX	muzzle	2400	2046
	100	2150	1636
	200	1916	1309
	300	1699	1025

As you can see, the 150 grain RN drops below 1000 ft-lbs of energy before reaching 200 yards, while the FTX extends the range to 300 yards; a 35% increase in usable range. The 170 grain flat point launched at 2200 fps also drops below 1000 ft-lbs of energy at 150 yards, while the 160 grain FTX would double that useful range.

Another classic lever cartridge in need of an update is the .303 Savage. Despite being considered by many to be hopelessly obsolete, demand for factory ammo remains strong. With that in mind I decided to work up a couple of loads which would also hopefully enhance the performance of the old round. The .303 Savage has about 3.5 grains more capacity than the .30-30 using LEVERevolution powder, so the potential for a significant bump in velocity was present. For the sake of comparison, I also included a load using a conventional bullet design in my testing. Using the traditional 180 grain round-nose bullet, the test rifle's sweet-spot was right at 36 grains of LEVERevolution. Much over that, however, and accuracy suffered, although there were still some velocity gains to be had. In such cases, care must be taken not to exceed max charges. Yet, at the end of the day the combination of LEVERevolution and the FTX bullet was the clear winner once more.

Table 4. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .303 Savage.

LOAD	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
38.5	160 Hornady FTX	2447	consistent
36	180 generic RN	2220	nice shooting

Another traditional hunting round that is trying to re-invent itself is the .30 Remington. It has a very similar case capacity to the .303 Savage and once again, for the sake of curiosity and a little nostalgia, a single test load was put together. I used a Remington model 14 pump for this test. Like the .303 Savage, the .30 Remington is still moderately popular among deer hunters. The rifle is both light and handy in the woods; both desirable traits. Once again, even with essentially zero load development, LEVERevolution and the Hornady FTX bullet showed just how much additional potential these old brush cartridges may still offer with the right handloads.

Table 5. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .30 Remington.

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)
38 grs	160 Hornady FTX

VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
2504	consistent max load

Unlike the .303 Savage and .30 Remington, the .32 Winchester Special is in little immediate danger of fading into terminal obsolescence, simply because it was chambered in so many Model 94 Winchesters. Like its near twin, the .30-30 Winchester, the .32 Winchester Special is also a beneficiary of the new powder and bullet combo offered via Hodgdon and Hornady.

After my own testing, I can confirm that it is a winning combination and there are certainly enough .32 Winchesters out there to make marketing this powder to existing owners extremely worthwhile. Although never as popular as the iconic "thutty-thutty," there are literally tens of thousands of .32 Winchester Special lever guns collecting dust in closets

from Newfoundland to Nevada. Overall, I found that the Hornady FTX bullets in my Model 94 to be quite accurate, and generally served to extend effective ranges by at least 100 yards over that of traditional bullets of comparable weight.

Table 6. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .32 Winchester Special.

LOAD (grains)	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
37	170 Hornady FP	2191	okay
Hornady factory	165 Hornady FTX	2290	consistent
37	165 Hornady FTX	2177	mild shooting
37.5	165 Hornady FTX	2223	consistent
38	165 Hornady FTX	2266	consistent
38.5	165 Hornady FTX	2284	factory specs

The next test candidate was the .35 Remington. Lucky for fans of the .35, Hornady also offers a 200 grain Hornady FTX bullet. I used a Marlin model 336 with a 20" barrel for this test. The .35 Remington is still being offered in rifles and factory ammo. While the latter is available if you look for it, like the others in its class, handloading brings out the best in the .35 Remington.

Table 7. Results of LEVERevolution powder testing and .35 Remington.

LOAD	BULLET (grs./make/style)	VELOCITY (fps)	COMMENT
41.5	200 Hornady FTX	2064	good load
42.5	200 Hornady FTX	2164	great load

The 200 grain FTX, starting at 2225 fps and having a muzzle energy of 2198 ft-lbs, still offers a velocity of 1503 fps and 1003 ft-lbs of energy at 300 yards. From my perspective, that makes it a legitimate 300 yard round, assuming the hunter has the skills to make such a shot reliably. The 200 grain round nose bullet commonly used in the .35 launched at 2100 fps would have dropped to 1,000 ft-lbs of energy at 150 yards. That would be about half the range that the FTX can be used at. You can use a round nose with this powder and get a hundred feet per second or slightly more bump in velocity. However, due to the inefficient ballistic design of the bullet you would realize very little added effective range as was previously discovered during the testing of the .25-35 Winchester and similar cartridges.

Conclusions –

So what do all of these tables and figures mean for hunters and shooters looking to extend the effective hunting ranges of their favourite varmint rifle or those hoping to get grandpa's old Winchester back in action? No question about it; there is a major advantage to using FTX bullets with Hodgdon's LEVERevolution powder. The same can be said of Hodgdon's Superformance powder, although shooters aren't limited to Hornady bullets in order to realize promised velocity gains.



For lever-gun hunters, Hodgdon's new powder and the Hornady FTX bullet is a match made in heaven. As my personal testing shows, they offer effective increases in range of 100 to 150 yards for such calibers as the .30-30 Winchester and .35 Remington; cartridges that have traditionally been considered marginal 200 yard rifles.

Owners of .32 Winchester or .32 Remington firearms may enjoy even better results using LEVERevolution powder and the Hornady 160 grain FTX bullet. In my opinion this combo may allow the average hunter to comfortably extend their effective ranges to 300 yards - provided they have the skill to pull off such a shot. I don't expect that such feats will become common place anytime soon, especially given that most game animals are shot within 200 yards. But for those rare occasions when a longer shot is required, LEVERevolution and the FTX bullet should give hunters the confidence to make the shot. Best of all, rather than having to buy a new rifle

in order to improve performance or extend their shooting ranges, current lever gun owners can now simply upgrade their ammo or handload instead.

However, hunters, handloaders and target shooters need to recognize and acknowledge that these advances in powder and bullet technology do not offer any sort of a magic solution to a lack of hunting or shooting ability. If you don't have the skill with conventional ammo, you probably won't gain anything by switching to LEVERevolution or Superperformance powders.

For the most part, Hodgdon's new powders, and partnership with Hornady, essentially offer shooters a greater range of choice in what shots they may opt to take given their individual skill set. If you're at best a 100 yard shot, topping up your old .32 Winchester Special with Hodgdon's LEVERevolution is not going to transform you into the next Wimbledon Cup champ. What these powders may offer someone is the opportunity to once again field a classic lever gun like the Winchester Model 94, without suffering too greatly from the perceived "disadvantages" of shorter ranges and low velocities. For bolt gun hunters and magnum cartridge fans, the latter traits are the classic hallmarks of all lever gun designs, or to their mind obsolete rifle designs.

However, nostalgia is a funny thing and for those looking to recapture their youth or hunt with an old family heirloom,

these new products from Hodgdon and Hornady offer the opportunity to bridge the divide between functionality, ease of use and effective range. For modern varmint hunters they offer the opportunity to extend their effective ranges even further, without increasing chamber pressure, or significantly reducing barrel life; a real consideration for many hunters shooting overbore long-range varmint rigs.

For more info:

<http://www.hodgdon.com/>

<http://www.hornady.com/bullets>

<http://www.sierrabullets.com/>

<http://www.barnesbullets.com/>

WARNING: The loads referenced were safe only in the specific firearms tested. Be sure to consult a quality reloading manual before attempting to duplicate. All technical data contained herein reflects the limited experience of individuals using specific tools, products, equipment and components under specific conditions and circumstances not necessarily reported in the article and over which Canadian Firearms Journal (CFJ) and Canada's National Firearms Association (NFA) has no control. As such, neither CFJ or NFA or any of its agents, officers and employees accepts any responsibility for the results obtained by anyone choosing to use such data and disclaim any and all liability for any injury or damage that may result.

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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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The International Front

How to Boil a Frog



By Gary Mauser

Recently, the Chief Firearms Officer in BC and Ontario imposed new and more onerous conditions on law-abiding target shooters. This should be no surprise. CFOs have long met behind closed doors to decide how to tighten the screws.

More than most Canadians, firearms owners live in a maze of rules and regulations. It may not be appreciated just how much our lives are restricted by the “concerns” of anonymous civil servants. Since 1978 anyone who transports a restricted firearm to a range intending to shoot targets has been required to have an Authorization to Transport (ATT) issued by the CFO. This is in addition to having a firearms licence and a registration certificate for the firearm. The new conditions that the CFOs came up with require every target shooter who visits a range that is not their “home club” must obtain a personal letter of invitation from that range, in addition to the ATT they already have, before being allowed to transport their firearm. Previously, an ATT allowed shooters to go to any qualified range. The new document is not specified in the Firearms Act but it now carries criminal arrest powers. How more paperwork will protect us is difficult to imagine.

In Canada, as in most countries, the bureaucracy wields the real power. Parliament just lays out the general principles, while anonymous officials behind the scenes decide the all-important details. Ottawa civil servants spell out what the laws really mean, first through writing detailed regulations and then later, other civil servants interpret them. Provincial or local authorities next decide how to enforce the regulations in specific situations, such as in the Ian Thomson case. Over the past century, governmental regulations have become more opaque and complex, transforming minor officials into local potentates who wield tremendous if arbitrary power. It is difficult and expensive to appeal regulatory decisions. Our individual freedom is entangled in this spider’s web of rules. Here are a few egregious examples:

BLOAT IN THE FIREARMS PROGRAM

The RCMP recently reported that scrapping the long-gun registry saves taxpayers only \$2M a year. This implies that the LGR was so inexpensive it should have been kept. This is bogus. RCMP documents show that the Canadian Firearms Program budgeted over \$22M per year in fiscal 2010 for firearm registration. Since long guns comprised over 90% of all registered firearms that year, the cost of registering long guns should be proportionate. Thus, scrapping the LGR should have saved almost \$20 M not \$2M. That the savings were trivial suggests the RCMP is not really attempting to cut costs. Why wouldn’t they? Could the RCMP be just another bloated Ottawa bureaucracy that resists budget cutting?

MISPLACED PRIORITIES IN CPIC

Liberty is especially threatened when public safety is used as an excuse. According to the RCMP website, the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) is supposed to provide important “tactical information about crimes and criminals.” Unfortunately, this laudable goal appears to have been buried in the rapid growth of CPIC-related databases. Muddled RCMP priorities endanger public safety.

If the goal is to provide important information about crimes and criminals, then why is such an unacceptably low priority assigned to collecting and maintaining up-to-date information about violent offenders, including their current address? And why is it so important to make available detailed information about law-abiding citizens who hold firearm licences? Which group would be more dangerous?

A recent study by Bonta et al (2010) found that even after serving their sentences, those who have been convicted of a violent crime pose a big threat to public safety with a reconviction rate over 40% within three years after release.

**LIKE THE PROVERBIAL FROG
WHO DOESN'T REALIZE HE IS BEING BOILED ALIVE
BECAUSE THE WATER TEMPERATURE
INCREASES SO SLOWLY, CANADIANS
(LIKE THEIR EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN COUSINS)
ARE BECOMING USED TO BEING RULED BY
ANONYMOUS OFFICIALS. IT IS NO SURPRISE
THAT WE ARE INCREASINGLY LOSING OUR LIBERTY.**

Approximately 13% of these reconvictions involved violent offences.

On the other hand, firearms owners are law-abiding citizens. The term “law-abiding” is not used loosely. Nevertheless, firearms licence holders are obliged to keep their address information current, while violent offenders after leaving prison are not. Canadians who have a firearms licence are less than one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians. Statistics Canada data show that licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 licensed gun owners between 1997 and 2010. Over the same period, the average national homicide rate was 1.85 per 100,000 (Mauser 2012)

SELF DEFENCE

Between 60,000 and 80,000 Canadians are estimated to use firearms in defending themselves or their family in any given year against violent attack. About half of these attacks involve wild animals and half violent criminals (Mauser 1996). These events remain largely unreported by the media.

Nevertheless, both Britain and Canada have continually down graded the right to self-defence through increasingly restrictive regulations by anonymous officials. Without any change to the law, for over a century the bureaucracy has continually reduced the scope of individual liberty. The Ian Thomson case demonstrates this.

Joyce Malcolm, in *Guns and Violence, The English Experience*, describes the slow degradation of an individual's right of self-defence in England during the 20th century, as the police continually reinterpreted the law, seemingly on their own initiative. It is not known who in the Home Office or police bureaucracy is responsible for this particular evolution

but it was a vitally important one, and, paradoxically, more so than the laws themselves. Canada's story roughly parallels England's but no “smoking gun” memo has been found outlining a bureaucratic conspiracy. Nevertheless, the right to defend oneself and one's family shrinks as the bureaucracy expands. This has primarily taken shape by regulating access to firearms, and restrictive court decisions.

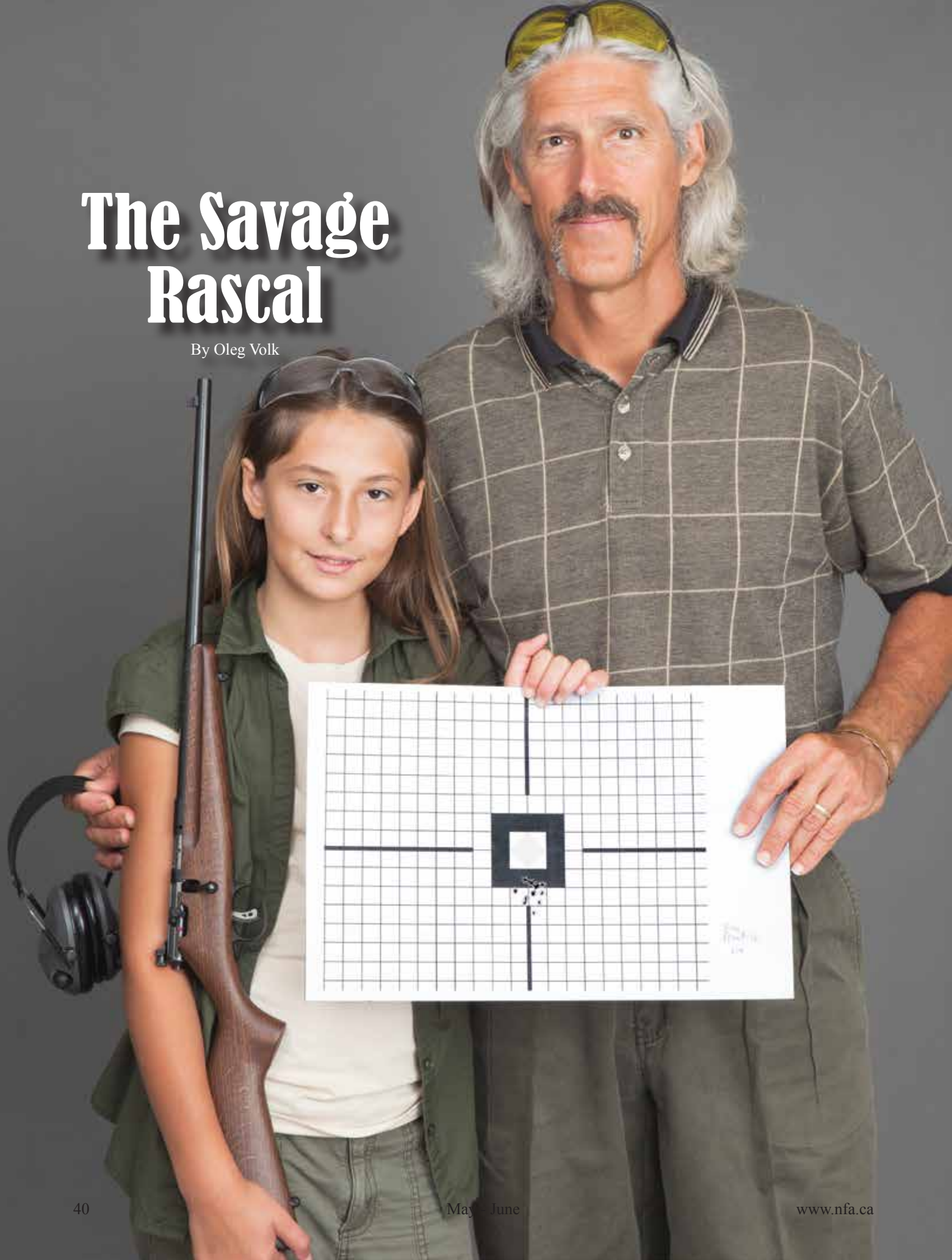
Does the frog escape the boiling water? Will he even wake up?

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The Savage Rascal

By Oleg Volk



The Canadian-made Savage Rascal redefines the term “child-sized carbine”. Sadly, we are used to things built for kids being less refined or precise than the adult equivalents, but this miniature .22 from Savage is quite the opposite. I find this quite heartening, since I firmly believe that learning to shoot is a serious undertaking at any age. Therefore the tools ought to look and feel right, and more importantly, shoot right.

Everything about the Rascal mirrors serious adult rifles. It is equipped with an adjustable AccuTrigger, not so long ago a feature exclusive only to Savage’s high-end models. It is drop safe and sports a clearly marked manual safety that is located on the right side of the receiver. The Rascal auto-cocks on bolt opening, permitting the user to cycle the bolt without having to either fire it or manually de-cock it first, unlike its closest competitors. This is a bonus for novice shooters, as the feature allows the child to concentrate on his or her shooting, without the distraction of any additional movement beyond inserting a fresh round in the chamber and closing the bolt.

The rear sight is of an adjustable hooded aperture design. Rather than being your typical fragile stamped part, it has been machined from solid steel and offers a level of quality not often seen on entry-level rimfire rifles. The rear aperture is fairly wide, favoring clarity of sight picture even in low light. Windage can be adjusted without tools, while elevation adjustments require a flat-head screwdriver. Very low height-over-bore produces minimal sight offset at close range. The only real “complaint” with the peep sight is that the inside of the sight is finished almost too smooth and can cause glare if the source light is near the target. The front sight is a standard dove-tailed affair and can be drifted for additional windage adjustment if required. As a value-added freebie, the rifle also comes tapped for a scope mount for those who prefer using an optic.

The Rascal also boasts a weight of just 2.66 lbs, once again making it exceedingly kid-friendly. Over the years I’ve seen too many adults fail to consider just how little upper-body strength pre-teen kids have. Trying to shoulder and hold a heavy 5-6 lb rifle unaided quickly becomes very tiring for a majority of young shooters and the fun stops. Thankfully, this rifle makes plenty of accommodations for such physical limitations. Overall, the factory walnut stock is well sculpted and short enough to fit pre-teen kids quite well.

Despite the short length, the rifle can be comfortably fired by an adult from the forward-facing “turret” stance, the same as with an AR-15 with a fully collapsed stock. For those who prefer more kid-like colors or like synthetic stocks for durability, the Rascal is also available in black, green, blue, red, orange, pink and yellow. Steel slings swivel studs are also imbedded in the stock, a useful feature for sling-supported firing or for mounting a small bipod.

This rifle made a very favorable first impression: the fit and finish were excellent and the design, simple but robust. Bolt movement and extraction were smooth. The rifle works equally well with .22 Short, Long and Long Rifle cartridges, though accuracy is definitely better with the standard 40-grain .22LR ammunition. Using the standard sights, the Rascal is easily capable of one inch groups at 25 yards. Loading is very easy, even for adults with large hands. The shooter need only drop a live round onto the red plastic feed tray and shake the rifle once -- the cartridge should slip right into the chamber.



I’ve had no misfires or failures to extract in the two hundred rounds shot using CCI Mini Mag and Eley Match.

I let kids ages six to fourteen try this rifle with adult supervision. All were able to handle it comfortably, operate the bolt without any problems and get good hits in short order. For the youngest, the targets were orange clays set up at five yards, for the oldest the same, but at twenty five. Incidentally, almost every child, even the complete novices, found the manual of operation for the little rifle to be very intuitive. Surprisingly, the rifle arrived correctly zeroed at the factory, so no further adjustments were necessary.

Maintenance is also extremely simple. Perhaps the only bone of contention I have with the rifle is that with the safety off, the trigger must be pulled in order to remove the bolt. The sear also functions as the bolt stop. With the bolt pulled, the barrel and the action may be cleaned with a bore snake or a brush. The finish proved quite resistant to humidity and I believe the Savage Rascal would do well as a small game or survival firearm for the budding outdoorsman. If you are looking for a quality bolt action .22 for a child, this is an excellent choice. In my case, it also turned out a great carbine for *my* inner child as well.

Justifying Gun Control – Your Betters Know Best

By Bruce Gold

The ultimate aim of the Liberal's Bill C-68 was, and still is, to end the lawful right of the citizenry to possess firearms (licensing, a grudging privilege revocable at whim or fancy, is a transitional stage). Civilian firearms, as a matter of official truth, were conceptualized as an evil, in and of themselves, and a bane to enduring societal peace. To overcome anticipated opposition to this rejection of a centuries-old tradition of Canadian firearms ownership, a truly compelling reason needed to be found, -or created. The rationale the Liberal's seized on was ultimately coloured by their supremely patronizing belief in the woeful incapacity of Canadians, their sheer inability, if you will, to actually be trusted with firearms - or much else. To support such a baseless contention, the Liberals needed an alarmed and fearful populace that was desperate for governance. Gun crime and related homicide, along with the still looming spectre of the Montreal Massacre, the dangers of spousal-abuse and firearm-related accidents were all mustered in the Chretien government's increasingly polarizing gun-control rhetoric. The most compelling of these and the most documentable, was Canada's rate of firearms homicide. Ultimately, it was on this rock the new Liberal "church" of draconian gun-control was built.

Collapse of the Homicide Justification

CAUSE OF DEATH	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
homicide	576	657	660	754	732	627	596	588	635	586	558	538	546	553	582	549	624	663	606	594	611
homicide firearms	151	195	182	240	214	173	170	145	177	156	129	151	156	148	137	138	149	202	166	167	167
% homicide firearm	26.2%	29.7%	27.6%	31.8%	29.2%	27.6%	28.5%	24.7%	27.9%	26.6%	23.1%	28.1%	28.6%	26.8%	23.5%	25.1%	23.9%	30.5%	27.4%	28.1%	27.4%

Source: Statistics Canada.

The Liberal's rationale for gun-control was the belief that there is a strong link between firearms and violence. This is sometimes referred to as the "weapons effect" (*Roots of Gun Control: The "Weapons Effect" Theory* - Canadian Firearms Journal April/May 2009). However, as research into the actual facts of crime and violence developed, the simple assumption that firearms cause violence did not hold up to scrutiny. Researchers like Peter Rossi and James Wright (*Armed and Considered Dangerous, A Survey of Felons and their Firearms*, 1986) demonstrated that there was little in common between the average gun owner and armed felons. Further research (For example, Kleck's award winning *Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America* 1991) demonstrated that the "weapons effect" theory was simply wrong. This growing body of criminological research transformed our understanding of the relationship between guns and violence.

The major realizations were: gun availability affects the rate of gun violence but not total rates of violence; that gun ownership by itself does not cause violence; that the value of firearms for self-defence has been seriously understated; and that gun controls are very difficult to enforce. These findings obviously severely undercut the "prevent homicide" or more accurately, "prevent firearms-related homicide" rationale the Government depended on to support their draconian gun control program.

Nothing if not inventive, Liberal spin-doctors responded to these empirical problems by developing the concept of "gun death." Deliberately obfuscating the issue, they attempted to somehow differentiate "gun deaths" from other forms of death because of what they saw as its "uniquely violent nature." Such violent acts therefore necessitated separate and prioritised government intervention and action. This conceptualization changed the dynamics of the debate and capitalized on the widely-held belief that that the rates of gun violence are related to gun availability. That the overall violence rates do not change in any predictable way was marginalized or simply ignored. (Increases in violence following severe gun-control as experienced in England, Washington DC and elsewhere are simply excluded from the debate.)

Table 1. Homicide Deaths 1988 -2007

If we look at the above table of homicide rates, we can see why Canadian gun-control advocates are moving away from a crime control justification. The complete lack of any significant change in homicide and firearm-related homicide numbers reveals the truth about Canadian gun-control legislation. The two billion dollar gun-control "monster" created by Allan Rock and the Chretien government has had exactly zero impact on homicide rates in Canada and has contributed nothing toward the further reduction of firearm-related homicides.

However, for some anti-gun advocates, the fluctuating numbers still presents an opportunity for rationalizing success out of failure. The simplest way to do this is to carefully select your start and end points. For example, start your "study" in 2005 (202 firearms homicides) and end it in 2006, (166 firearms homicides) and you can then claim that gun control saved 36



lives in just one year. The game can be played in the opposite direction as well by comparing rates from 2002 (137 firearms homicides) with 2005 (202 firearms homicides). Consequently, you can just as easily argue that things are getting much worse and even more gun-control is needed. If one examines the numbers over a longer time period the scam is revealed.

Still, the anti-gun agenda needs a rationale and the anti's have found one by re-framing the debate as a public health issue. This shift opens the door to a number of interesting rationales for gun control, the most prominent if these are suicide-prevention.

Shift to the Suicide Justification

Using suicide as a rationale for gun control in Canada has a number of appealing features. (This shift is sometime concealed by the use of the category "intentional homicide" to mask the inclusion of suicide numbers into what was a debate about homicide.) The first and perhaps most important advantage of including suicide in our gun death statistics is that it triples the size of the "gun problem." This, in itself, helps justify a radical transformation of Canadian society and culture. To understand the impact of this change we can turn to the figures included in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Suicide Statistics

CAUSE OF DEATH	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Average
suicide	3510	3492	3379	3593	3709	3803	3749	3970	3941	3681	3699	4074	3,606	3,692	3,650	3,765	3,613	3,743	3,512	3,611	3690
suicide firearms	1067	1076	1054	1109	1048	1053	973	911	881	815	816	802	685	651	633	618	568	593	586	534	
% suicide firearm	30.4%	30.8%	31.2%	30.9%	28.3%	27.7%	26.0%	22.9%	22.4%	22.1%	22.1%	19.7%	19.0%	17.6%	17.3%	16.4%	15.7%	15.8%	16.7%	14.8%	

Source: Statistics Canada.

If we examine the second table, we can apparently see that the number of firearms suicides drop steadily after the introduction of more restrictive gun-control in 1995. This is the source of the claim that gun control saves lives and is a public health benefit. These figures also offer support for two theories favouring gun control. The first is the ever popular "weapons effect" rationale, which argues that fewer guns should lead to fewer suicides. The second is the theory that a significant proportion of suicides are impulsive in nature. Accordingly, if guns are not available or are secured by safe storage laws, guns will not be easily available and many suicides will be prevented.

Unfortunately for gun-control advocates, the empirical evidence does not support these arguments. If we compare suicide rates in various jurisdictions we find that suicide rates do not correspond with gun ownership rates. A major report on suicide in Canada (*Firearms, Accidental Deaths, Suicides*

and Violent Crime: An Updated Review of the Literature with Special Reference to the Canadian Situation, Department of Justice) explicitly examined the impact of firearms ownership on suicide rates and found no correlation across regional studies. Evidence supporting a connection was found to be both contradictory and inconclusive.

The basis of most arguments against the "gun-control reduces suicide" theory is that there are many alternate means of suicide. People who are committed to ending their life are not dissuaded because of a limited access to firearms. Unfortunately, such persons can and do opt to use alternative means of suicide. We see this effect quite clearly in jurisdictions such as Japan, where firearms are strictly controlled, but suicide rates remain disturbingly high. This argument has been hotly contested by anti-gunners, who are fully aware that it undermines their new rationale for complete civil disarmament. However, a quick look at the relevant suicide statistics in Table 2 clearly show that alternate means of suicide are obviously being chosen. Consequently, overall suicide rates have remained essentially unchanged, even as the incidence of gun suicides has decreased. Again we find that our intrusive gun laws, with all their attendant civil-liberty issues, have delivered on none of the Liberal's much-vaunted promises.

Discussion

Seventeen years after C-68 was rammed through Parliament, the promised benefits have failed to materialize. The costs in money, wasted opportunities, deteriorating police relations with the public and major assaults on our traditional freedoms protected under English common law are all too real. For the elitists who want to impose gun-control as a moral good, or in support of an all protective nanny-state, the failure of the empirical evidence is largely irrelevant. We need to remove emotion from the equation and rely upon equal measures of logic and common sense. For the rest of us, the Liberal's "tough love" program of draconian gun-control, has been stripped of its last remaining shreds of justification and is now merely draconian; it is high-time it was abandoned.

Author can be reached at goldb@shaw.ca and welcomes comments.

Legal...Continued From Page 23

community actually donated to help fund the Type-97A legal community actually donated to help fund the Type-97A legal defence fund last year is any indication, the RCMP were unfortunately right on the money in their generally low estimations of Canadian gun owners. Indeed, it is a fault that they have fully exploited since then. The “If I’m not directly affected then I’m not interested” mentality must change if there is any hope of preventing further prohibitions.

For now, it would appear as if the RCMP enjoys the de facto power to change the legal classification of any firearm it so desires, and revoke the registration certificates for it at will. In fact, more out-spoken critics of the law-enforcement agency have argued that the RCMP has gradually been bolstering its power to “prohibit and revoke” with each unopposed unilateral reclassification. Thus far, their “low-hanging fruit” strategy has been a winner and the NFA’s fear is that their de facto power to “prohibit and revoke” is becoming so entrenched that it will be impossible to reverse.



Justifying Unilateral Re-classification -

According to RCMP documents obtained by the NFA, their firearms laboratory contends that the BD-38 **“has virtually the same receiver as the original MP38 submachine gun and can be readily made to fire in the fully automatic mode simply by installing the necessary MP38 parts. Furthermore, the SSD BD38 carbine can be converted to fire in the fully automatic mode in minutes by making minor modifications to the BD38 trigger mechanism using common items such as wire and small pieces of metal.”**

In an email response to an affected BD-38 owner who questioned this contention, the RCMP refused to reveal how they effected a conversion to full auto. In his email, Chief Firearms Technologist William Etter, argued that, “It is not in the interest of public safety to reveal to you exactly the manner of the minor modifications to the trigger mechanism to produce full automatic fire.”

Here at NFA we experienced the same obfuscation and intransigence from the RCMP over the Norinco Type-97A challenge. Without knowing the process utilized by Mr. Etter and the RCMP’s Specialized Firearms Support Services of the Firearms Investigative & Enforcement Services Directorate to convert the BD-38, it is impossible to say with any certainty just how “easy” it would be for the average gun owner to successfully alter their semi-automatic carbine and turn it into an illegal submachine gun. According to both the manufacturer and the Canadian importer, it is simply fallacious to contend that such a conversion would be anything resembling “easy.”

Unlike modern designs such as the German Heckler & Koch, the BD-38 is not modular and a user cannot simply switch out a semi-automatic trigger group for a full auto version. According to the importer, a complete replacement of the firearm’s semi-automatic lower receiver is required, with a full-auto version having the correct auto trigger mechanism. Even if such an extremely rare original and illegal, (unless already registered), lower receiver could be found, it cannot be properly rotated and locked into place. There were deliberate dimensional differences manufactured into the modern SSD BD-38 reproduction for just this reason. As a result, they simply will not fit together without extensive modification and machining. Similarly, the cut-outs on the lower side of the upper receiver tube differ from the original, just as there are critical dimensional differences between modern BD-38 barrels and original MP-38. One cannot be substituted

for another; in fact, there are even dimensional differences between the bolts of each firearm.

These facts were not questioned during the original RCMP review and evaluation of the SSD BD-38. However, in light of a changed political climate, suddenly the

same lab is now assuring Public Safety Minister Vic Toews, in an official “Briefing Note” to the minister that “The SSD BD38 is a reproduction of the original Schmeisser MP38 to the extent that parts are interchangeable.”

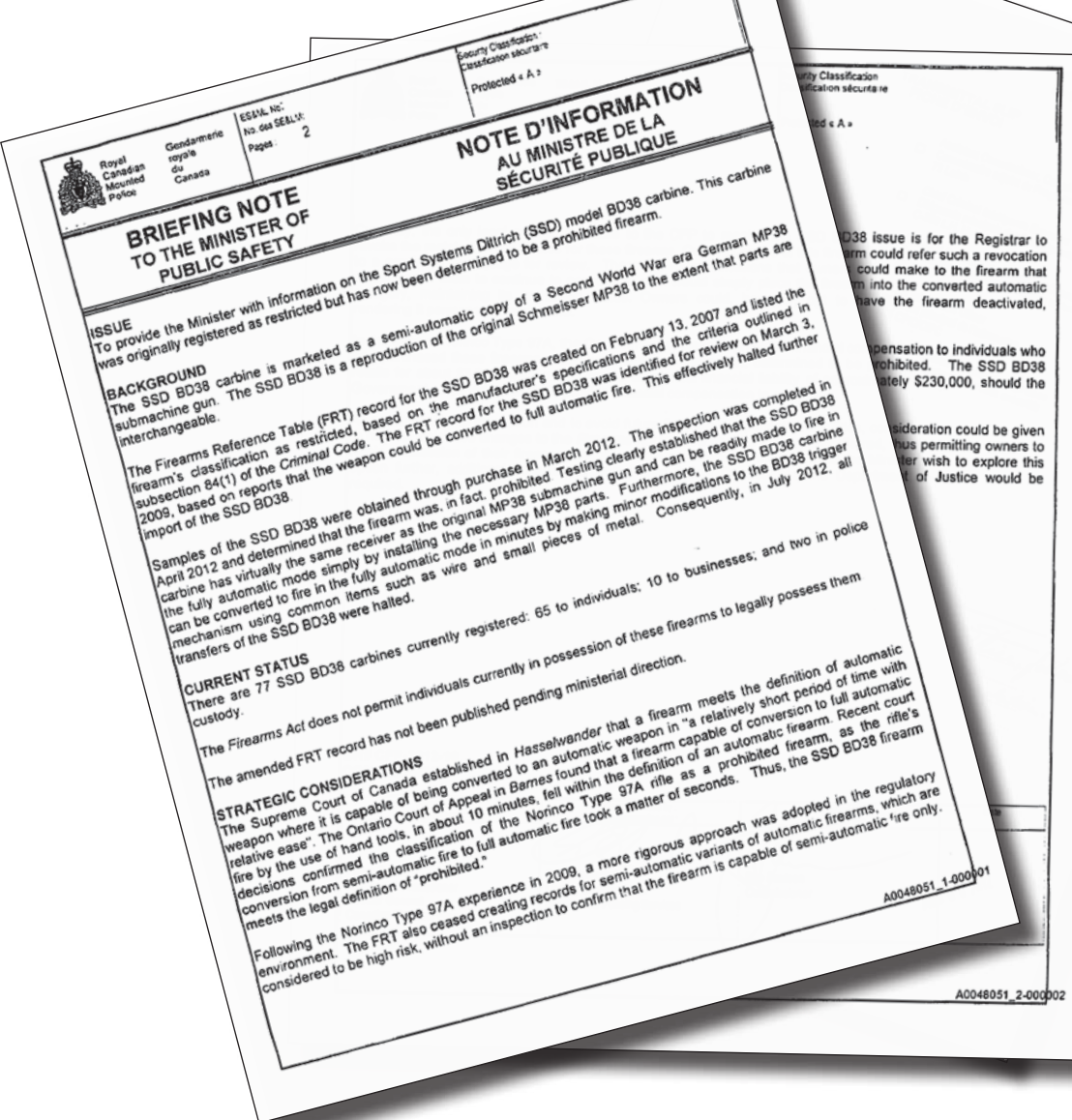
Reality & Formulation of a Legal Defence -

Can the SSD BD-38 be “easily” converted into a full auto machine gun that has been banned in Canada for years?

Who to believe?

Obviously, these types of cases are necessarily “expert witness” driven. As distasteful as it is to admit, most firearms technologists employed by the RCMP/CFP Firearms Investigative & Enforcement Services Directorate are necessarily very knowledgeable about firearms. They are not bumbling fools and bureaucratic pencil-pushers who can’t tell one end of a firearm from the other. Unfortunately, they have a particular skill set and base of knowledge that they use to support and advance the RCMP’s anti-gun agenda rather than that of law-abiding gun owners.

Alas, Canadian courts seem to place an undue amount of trust and faith in the expertise of experts like Mr. Etter, who are on the government payroll, and are paid to support their employer’s positions. Little thought seems to be given as to whether or not there are other political forces at play or that there is an agenda, other than truth and justice, being advanced by the Crown or the RCMP. Unfortunately for gun owners, such subjective expert opinions are far too often interpreted by the courts to be wholly objective in nature and are accepted as fact. As such, any gun



owner seeking to challenge the RCMP/CFP expert witness in open court is bucking a stacked deck from the outset. In order to have any hope of countering this effect, plaintiffs need to be able to present a solid argument based on expert witness testimony which will be believed OVER the expert witness testimony and opinion of the RCMP/CFP Firearms Investigative & Enforcement Services Directorate technologist testifying on behalf of the Crown/RCMP/CFP.

This is a very tall order, especially when the issue in question is not cut and dried, but is more subjective in nature and open to interpretation. Potential opposing arguments over the “ease of conversion” of a firearm such as the BD-38 are a case in point. Unfortunately for gun owners, our courts have opted to side with the Crown/RCMP/CFP more often than not in such instances. In the face of this stark reality, and the absolutely horrible Hasselwander precedent discussed in previous articles, it has become blaringly obvious that the courts offer law-abiding gun owners little hope that the RCMP’s anti-gun, “prohibit and revoke” crusade will ever end.

Nevertheless, my first instinct upon hearing of the BD-38s prohibition was to fight the ban and immediately begin searching for a BD-38 owner willing to volunteer to serve as a test case

under a S.74 reference hearing. However, logically there is little point expending scarce resources in what has effectively become a rigged game, with gun owners forced into the role of unwilling patsy. The only way in which to win such games is not to play at all. Instead, a change in strategy is necessary, and in this case, legislative reform offers much better odds of

a positive outcome for responsible gun owners. This makes the reform of the C-68 *Firearms Act* and Chapter 39 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* all the more urgent.

The anti-gun elements within the RCMP/CFP gun control bureaucracy have thus far contented themselves with plucking the figurative “low-hanging fruit,” like the High Standard, Type-97A and now BD-38. However, it is only a matter of time before they are further emboldened to reach for fruit a little higher up the figurative tree. Anyone who believes that the current gun control bureaucracy and their RCMP allies will be satisfied with just the latest round of prohibitions is deluding themselves. More revocations are coming unless we change the game.

That is where Canada’s National Firearms Association and our firearms community come in. We need to let the Conservatives know that the current status quo is unacceptable. The RCMP is using technicalities and their own self-appointed power to unilaterally dictate to law-abiding gun owners exactly what firearms will pass their secret “sniff” test. Those deemed unacceptable face arbitrary reclassification and prohibition, despite any demonstrable public safety necessity or danger that would otherwise justify such bans. With little legal recourse remaining to Canada’s law-abiding gun owners, it now falls to the Conservative government to ensure that justice prevails.

THE LAST WORD...

BY PROUD UNCLE SEAN

My calendar tells me that spring officially arrived some weeks ago. Unfortunately no one thought to mention that fact to the weather gods in my neck of the woods. As I write this, the old Penney homestead is being buffeted by yet another late-season blizzard. There is no doubt it's another rip-roaring nor' Easter, which means hours of clean-up tomorrow and my having to disappoint my little nephew Caleb. He had been looking forward to tomorrow's coyote hunt for weeks, but with the additional snowfall, our planned hunting area is once more inaccessible by ATV.

Caleb actually has a birthday coming up next month and we're looking at possibly picking up his first BB gun. He has already informed me that he plans on toting it along on our next buddy hunt. There is little question that he's already shaping up to one day become a fantastic marksman; a skill he's developed over the past year or two using his older brother's Red Ryder.

If you've ever had the pleasure of mentoring young shooters as I have over the course of my career, you eventually acquire the ability to recognize those kids who have been blessed with both superior hand-eye coordination and eyesight. At five years of age, Caleb's affinity for the outdoors and the ease with which he picks up hunting lore and survival skills is darn near supernatural. I know that I sound like your stereotypical "proud dad," or more correctly "proud uncle," but I'm convinced that by the time he hits puberty the kid is going to be able to run circles around both my brother Curt and I; regardless whether we're talking BB guns, rimfire .22s, centerfire varmint rifles, bunny or duck hunting, or even questing after the ever-elusive swamp donkey.

I'm sure many would argue that it is unfair to saddle a kindergartner with such a huge burden at so tender an age. And I would agree completely. There is no question in my mind that being forced to live up to such high expectations is too much for almost any kid to deal with; even one as talented as Caleb. The solution to that ever so thorny problem is for us to remove that burden from the equation entirely. Caleb's dad, his doting paternal grandfather, and I have all made a conscious choice to never put him in such a position. For now, I'd be just as happy to pony up for a new Lego set as that BB gun he has his eye on for his birthday.

Growing up playing minor hockey, my brother and I saw far too many kids come to hate the game because of the

unreasonable expectations their parents forced upon them.

Unfortunately, not every kid is gifted with the natural talent and skills to become the next Wayne Gretzky or Gordie Howe; or if we're talking shooting, the next Rob Leatham or Max Michel. It's wonderful if they do, but it's unfair for parents or mentors to impose their own unfulfilled dreams upon the next generation.

As kids, my brother and I were never pressured to play hockey, learn to shoot, or pursue any particular interest for that matter unless it was our idea first. We were lucky enough to have parents who encouraged us to learn to think for ourselves and help chart our own course though life. In this way my fledgling minor hockey career was eventually cut short, as my interests changed and I became involved in the scouting and cadet movements. Instead of rising at 5 AM for those early ice-times, I still got up early, but headed to the woods with my dad to go hunting and fishing.

Eventually my brother would join us, as his interests also matured. It wasn't that either of us came to hate playing hockey, we just learned to love the outdoors, along with hunting and shooting more. When the time came, we let our folks know that we wanted to learn to shoot, become a Cub Scout, join the Army Cadets, or put in for our own big game license. They never forced extracurricular activities upon us, but rather presented us with the options then available to kids of our age and supported us in our decisions.

Unfortunately, not all kids are so lucky. We've all seen or heard stories of the gung-ho "hockey dad" or "hockey mom" who goes off the rails and completely loses their perspective. They drain all the fun out of sport for their kids and eventually the child rebels, thus ending their fledgling minor hockey career, and in many cases their love of the game as well.

I urge all parents and mentors within our firearms community to learn from such train wrecks. Don't try and push your kids into the shooting sports before they're ready! There's nothing more boring for a seven or eight year-old than spending six hours in a deer stand, or less fun



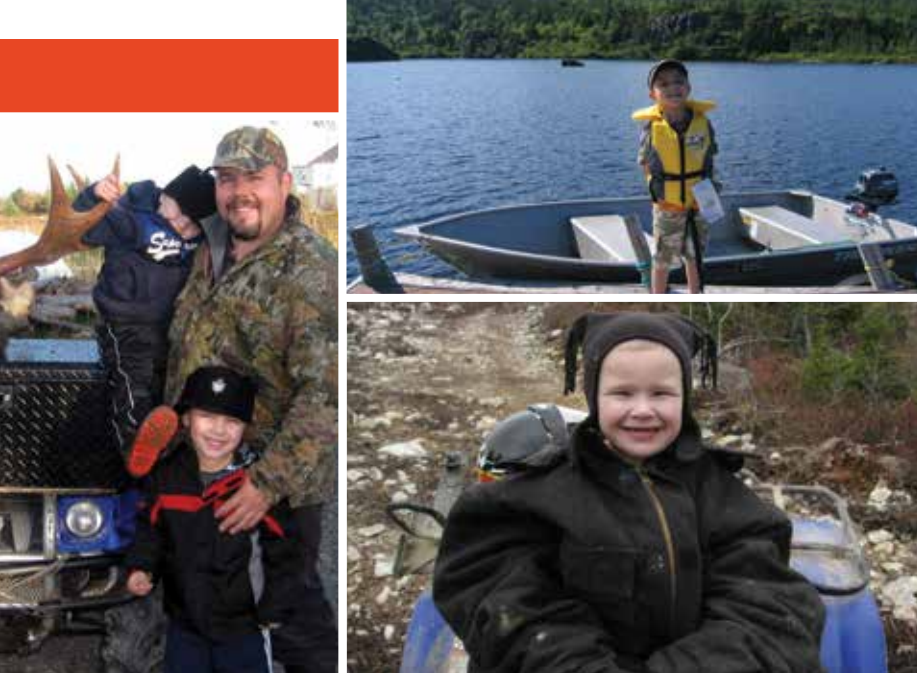


Photo Credits: Oleg Volk, Jeff Helsdon, Sean Penney

than being expected to shoot tiny groups at a plain paper target using their father's heavy barrel Ruger 10/22 that weighs 10 lbs.

Aside from teaching kids about proper gun safety, if you want your kid to grow-up to be a life-long hunting or range buddy, you need to moderate initial expectations, introduce your kid to our shooting sports in the right way, and make sure they have FUN! Kids like to be stimulated and engaged by whatever activity they're asked to participate in. Reactive targets, spinners, coloured water-filled soda bottles, old fruit, clay pigeons, or steel gongs and a good .22LR are sure to be crowd pleasers from ages 5 to 105.

Small game hunting is a much better choice than big game for introducing novices to the sport for much the same reason. The former presents kids with an opportunity for a unique experience that they can share with their entire family; is filled with excitement and lots of stimulation, and offers a much higher likelihood of early success. These are all factors in determining whether or not the child will eventually opt to join our firearms community.

First and foremost, let your kid learn the basics first and at their own speed. There is lots of time to move up to the big thumpers and the more challenging aspects of our shooting sports. If you pay attention to your kid you will know when the time has come for them to move on to the next stage in their shooting or hunting careers. If you try and push them too hard or too fast, at too young an age, you may lose them forever.

Today, with so many other near-addictive distractions and activities available to kids: From playing Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty on their X-box; hanging out at the local shopping mall; chatting up their friends on Facebook; following the latest Twitter feeds; or watching the latest movie from their on-line Netflix account, spending time with their "parental units" can become downright distasteful. If spending that time with their folks also include being forced to schlep heavy gun cases and ammo cans out to the family car, and spending a chilly spring afternoon at an outdoor shooting range that has no cell service



or Wi-Fi, while listening to cantankerous old hang-about's argue arcane firearms minutiae the likelihood of your kid every becoming a "gun guy" or "gun girl" is remote at best.

Every child is unique and they will mature and develop at their own pace. Ultimately, it is up to each parent to figure out what is the most "appropriate" age for them to introduce their kids to the shooting sports. That said you do not want to wait too long before you present you kids with the opportunity to learn how to hunt or shoot. Unfortunately, some parents wait too long and miss their window of opportunity. Several of my hunting buddies are in that very boat. Much to their profound disappointment and regret, their kids have zero interest in learning how to hunt and shoot. Do your kids a favour, provide them with a proper introduction to our shooting sports and spare them for a similar fate. And that's the last word...

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