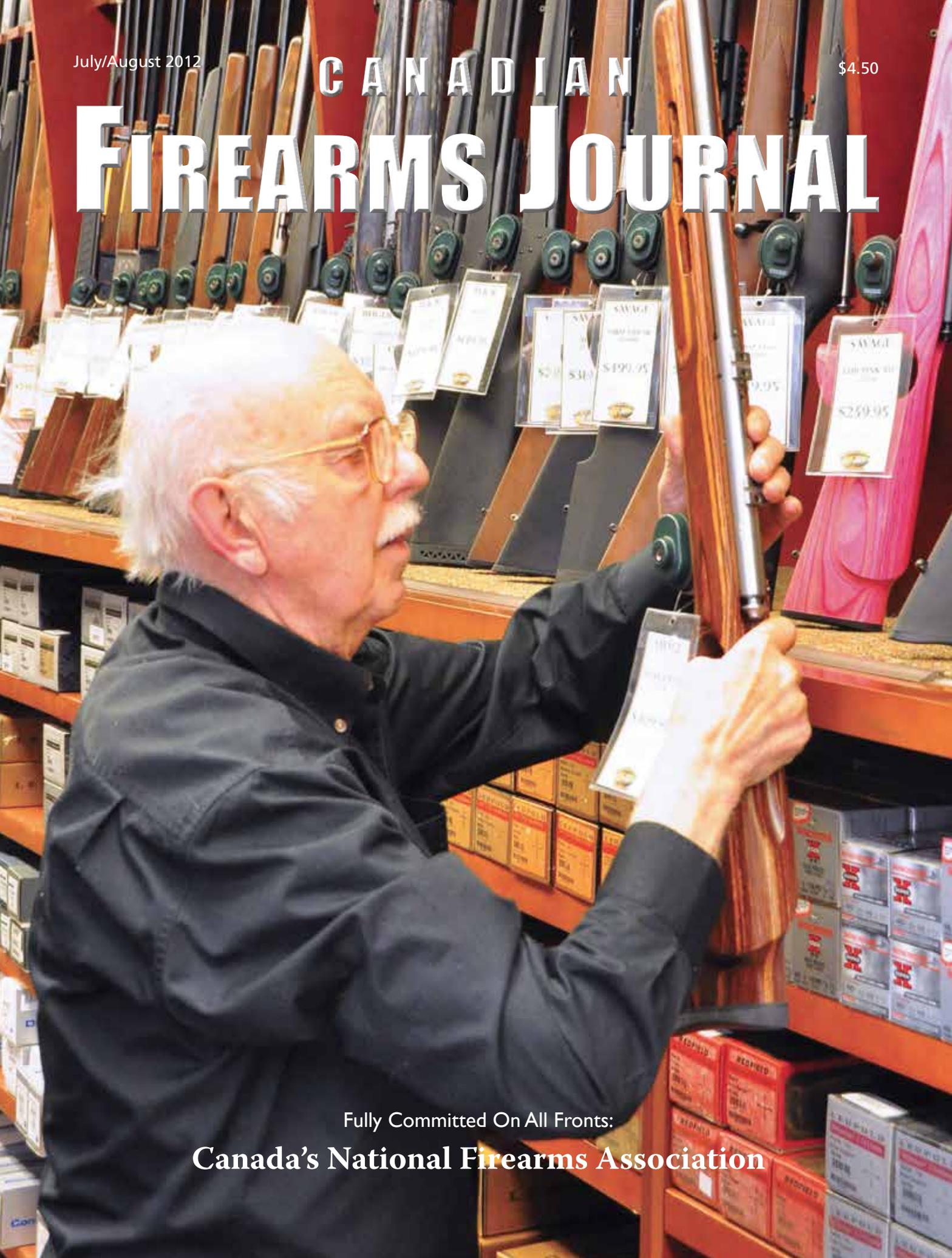


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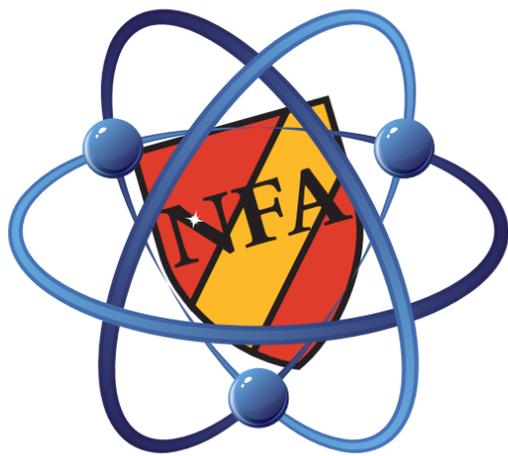
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# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:

**Canada's National Firearms Association**



# Around the NFA

## National President Sheldon Clare Honoured

by Sean Penney

Prince George, B.C.- On behalf of everyone at Canadian Firearms Journal, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate National President Sheldon Clare for having been selected a recipient of the prestigious Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. The award honours the Queen for her 60 years on the throne and is being awarded to just a privileged few Canadians who have made significant contributions to their community and country.

Sheldon has a long history of volunteerism and community activism. In addition to serving as president of Canada's National Firearms Association, he is a past president of Branch 43 of the Royal Canadian Legion; serving some 12 years on its executive in a variety of roles. Sheldon has also played an active part in returning the Rocky Mountain Rangers to Prince George; along with having served on the executive of the Prince

George Rod and Gun Club for many years.

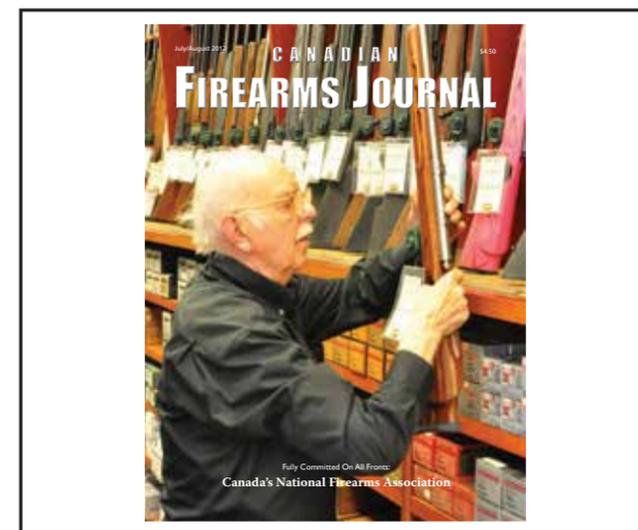
As a proud member of Canada's firearms community, Sheldon remains an ardent hunter and outdoorsman, hunter safety examiner, and firearms collector who enjoys using all types of firearms. Having studied military history, Sheldon currently teaches technical writing and business communications at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George.

In his "downtime" Sheldon enjoys spending time with his wife Manuela, and his two lovely daughters, both of whom are proud as peacocks of their dad right now.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal was presented to Sheldon during his recent trip to Ottawa by Prince George - Peace River M.P. Bob Zimmer. Well done Mr. President!



MP Bob Zimmer presents National Firearms Association President Sheldon Clare with the prestigious Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal during a recent trip to Ottawa. Photo: Parliamentary photographer.



## On The Cover

At 85 years of age and with twenty-five years of retail firearms sales under his belt, George Christensen is something of a legend within the Edmonton firearms community. A long-time employee of Wholesale Sports, George remains the resident "grandfather" at the Canadian sporting goods chains' North Edmonton store. Joining the Wholesale Sports family at the start of their very early days in Edmonton, George's current job in retail firearms sales is actually a second career for him. Bored with retirement after giving up a successful career in real-estate, George decided to give firearms sales a try. A life-long hunter and shooter, George found his niche behind the gun counter at the Edmonton sporting goods store. When he isn't hunting, he continues to serve "his" customers to the best of his considerable ability and will happily share his lifetime of hands-on firearms experience with any who care to ask

Cover Photo: Al Voth

## 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 hope everyone is having a safe and happy summer. More importantly, I hope everyone is taking advantage of all the fine weather we've been blessed with to finally decide to take their kid, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, aunt, uncle, friend, co-worker, mom or dad shooting with them! The only way we're ever going to preserve and protect our firearm heritage, rights and freedoms as law-abiding gun owners is to ensure our ranks continue to grow. We need new blood and that means we need to do our utmost to introduce as many new shooters to our shooting sports as possible.

Clearly, the fracas between Ottawa, anti-gun bureaucrats, various CFOs and the senior RCMP officers in charge of the Canadian Firearms Program, that boiled-over in the wake of Bill C-19 becoming law, proves that our fight is not over. We can't afford to lose focus now, since it seems the entrenched anti-gun elements within the gun-control bureaucracy have assumed a "fifth-column-like" role inside the CFP. Nowhere is this more patently obvious than with the various CFO's directives to retailers to continue to maintain sales ledgers and record buyer's private information. Such orders are in direct defiance of the clear direction and intent of Bill C-19, otherwise known as *Ending the Long-Gun Registry Act*. This is the same act that was fully debated and passed by our elected representatives in Parliament, and made the law of the land with the signature of the Governor General on April 5th.

Executives with Canada's National Firearms Association have been in close contact with the minister's office through the course of this unnecessary drama, and it seems as if our message has been received given new regulatory directives recently issued by government. Time will tell if the gun-grabbers get the message, but for now the price of our freedom is unceasing vigilance on the part of all responsible gun owners.

Things are heating up on the international front as well. This summer Canada's NFA will be heading to the United Nations once more for further meetings on the proposed U.N. Arms Trade Treaty. A treaty, which if made a reality, could pose a significant threat to the future viability of civilian ownership of firearms here in Canada and abroad. Towards summer's end, NFA reps will be forced to return to New York once more for further talks related to the equally concerning U.N. (PoA) or Programme of Action. This latter initiative continues to pose a considerable danger to our future gun rights and one which NFA continues to strongly oppose through our activities at the United Nations and via our memberships in the World Forum (WFSA) and IAPCAR.

Pro-firearms advocates and gun owners in Canada really should take a page out of the playbook used by our enemy. The gun grabbers, unlike so few of us, have long recognized the advantages to cooperative action and this, more than anything, has given them the resources necessary to continue their unceasing attacks on firearm's freedoms around the world -- regardless of their individual differences. However, put

two gun owners in the same room and you're almost guaranteed an argument will break out in short order.

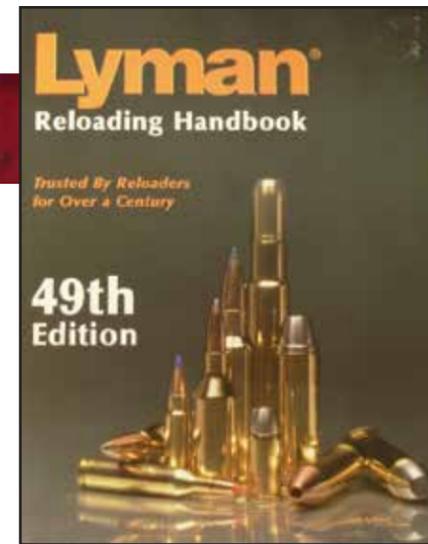
This phenomena has most recently been observed amongst our firearms community in the wake of Bill C-19 gaining Royal Assent. Heated debates and arguments have occurred from Vancouver to St. John's over how one is to go about legally selling a non-restricted firearm now that the registry is ostensibly dead. Questions have swirled over what info is required to verify a buyer's PAL when selling a gun and whether or not sellers should retain private records of their sales. One hunting organization based in Ontario has gone so far as to post a PDF form its member's can download and print out to create private sales ledges ala the old CFO system!

That's just plain crazy, but it is symptomatic of just how insidiously effective the Liberal's social re-engineering experiment has been. We've been indoctrinated without even knowing it to over-regulate ourselves. Many gun owners simply find themselves unable to function without specific direction from the gun control bureaucracy.

Equally unsettling is the decision by a number of larger retailers to continue to maintain their own ledger system, regardless of the current stand-off between Minister Toews and provincial CFOs. That development is disappointing, because it will cost those retailers significant numbers of sales, just as the post C-19 boom in gun sales is expected to hit. We have a long way to go before the retail Canadian firearms industry recovers to pre-C-68 levels, so anything that could possibly derail that recovery is of concern.

For the immediate future, Canadian gun owners need to comply with the letter of the law. However, we need to also recognize and celebrate the fact that through all of our efforts over the past decade and more, our gun laws have changed to our benefit. Finally. As such, we aren't required to impose our own artificial rules and regulations upon ourselves. What we all need to remember is that it wasn't that long ago that buying and selling long guns was quite commonplace without the involvement of a computer database. In fact, literally millions of firearms changed hands without anyone ever having to get permission from a CFP bureaucrat.

Now that we've finally chalked up a point in our win column, however small it may be, why don't we enjoy it instead of spending needless energy arguing amongst ourselves? We have a long fight ahead of us, and if recent machinations by the gun-control lobby are any indication, it is going to get even nastier. It's time for gun owners to circle our wagons once more and get back to work dismantling the Liberal's failed gun control program once and for all.



## NFA Book Shelf

by Wm. Rantz

### LYMAN RELOADING HANDBOOK 49TH EDITION

**Publisher:** Lyman Products Corporation

**Editor:** Thomas J. Griffin

Copyright 2008, Fourth Printing: April 2010, 8 1/2 x 11, Black/White Photographs, 464 Pages

Hard Cover: IBM 9816052 or Soft Cover: IBM 9816049

The name Lyman has been synonymous with high quality shooting products since 1878 when William Lyman began producing rifle sights for the shooting fraternity. Lyman was always supportive of the Ideal Manufacturing Company which produced both handloading tools and bullet molds. The Lyman Gun Sight Corporation purchased Ideal in October 1925. Lyman currently manufactures a complete line of loading equipment and accessories used for either bullet casting or cartridge reloading.

The 49th Edition of the Lyman Reloading Handbook is an excellent resource for all handloaders from beginners to those with many years of experience.

Safety is always the primary concern when producing cartridges for your personal use. Lyman emphasizes the need to read instructions and carefully follow those procedures when reloading any type of ammunition. They also encourage all who reload cartridges to "review this information from time to time".

Producing quality ammunition which functions properly and shoots accurately is the goal of all reloading enthusiasts. The 49th Edition of the Lyman Reloading Handbook will enable reloaders to attain high standards as every step in the reloading process is explained in detail.

In the extensive data section Lyman deals with each cartridge in a similar format which makes this manual

user friendly. A brief history of each cartridge is provided at the introduction. Technical data charts clearly identify both test components and test specifications. Commonly used bullets, including both cast and jacketed, are listed for each cartridge. Under each bullet Lyman provides several choices of powders listing the recommended starting load as well as the maximum load. The potentially most accurate load is conveniently shown in bold type. Adhering to the guidelines provided for each cartridge is encouraged for safe reloading and shooting.

Those with older editions may benefit by upgrading to the 49th edition as the current version contains loading data on the newest rifle and handgun cartridges. The 49th Edition of the Lyman Reloading Handbook also includes four specialty articles which users will find interesting and informative:

- \* Barrel Care and Cleaning for Accuracy
- \* Handloading the 1876 Replicas
- \* Making the Jump to Premium Bullets
- \* Handloading Winchester's Stubby Bullets

The 49th Edition of the Lyman Reloading Handbook is available in the soft cover edition for about \$30. If it is not on the shelf at you local gunstore you can order a copy through any dealer who sells Lyman products.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Sheldon Clare

Thanks very much for telling us about the issues that are important to you in our recent survey, and as well thanks to those who have donated to support our efforts to protect our rights and fight unfair firearm control laws. It seems that we are following the right course in seeking the repeal of Bill C-17 and C-68 in their entirety. There are certainly a variety of views as to other priorities, but you can rest assured that we are continuing to work for positive change to our bad laws.

Our AGM in Woodstock last May was a well-attended roaring success with an impressive panel of speakers including John Lott, Jr., Randy Kuntz, Solomon Friedman, and Gary Mauser. It was my pleasure to present our speakers with Life memberships in Canada's National Firearms Association in recognition of their intelligent research, advocacy and courageous efforts in defence of freedom.

Ian Thomson was able to drop in and while not discussing his case was able to speak briefly with

members about his situation. The NFA was pleased to add additional financial support to Ian Thomson's legal struggle in the amount of \$1,500, and we urge all members to help support Mr. Thomson as his case continues. Donations may be sent directly to:

**EDWARD L. BURLEW, LL.B. in Trust**

**Barrister & Solicitor**

**16 John Street**

**Thornhill, Ontario L3T1X8**

**Please mention that you are a member of the NFA when you donate.**

The AGM was followed up by a visit to Ottawa where I was able to meet with several MPs including Minister of Foreign Affairs John Baird, and MPs Gary Breitkreuz, Rob Anders, Bob Zimmer, Dick Harris, and others to raise our issues with our elected representatives.



Maple Leaf flying proudly over Parliament during a recent NFA trip to Ottawa this spring.



NFA National President Sheldon Clare, accompanied by well-known lawyer & authority on firearms issues, Solomon Friedman, was in Ottawa recently for a series of meetings with several ministers and M.P.s.L-R: M.P. Garry Breitkreuz, Sheldon Clare, Solomon Friedman, Minister John Baird.

Ottawa lawyer Solomon Friedman was most helpful in accompanying me to meet with Minister Baird, and also in raising the profile of our issues. The meetings were very encouraging and hopefully they will translate into further action by the government on the firearms file. The recent activities by several provincial Chief Firearms Officers in requiring businesses to continue registering sales in a paper ledger put all of us on edge. The NFA was able to provide copies of the Ontario CFO's letter to several key people and the information promptly went viral in attracting national attention. The fact that there is even some discussion about the issue at all highlights the need for repeal of bad law to make a fundamental shift in the way in which firearms owners have been treated by our governments in the past 30 years. It was also helpful to be a guest of Brian Lilley's Byline program on the Sun News Network and to point out the dangers of unfettered police bureaucracy in the administration of the Firearms Act.

One issue that has been emerging for some time is the call for a comprehensive international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Gary Mauser has been keeping us informed about this situation, and the NFA will be providing input at the UN on the matter this summer. Despite some of the claims of those wanting the ATT, this is not gun control aimed at world peace, it is instead gun control to enable the efforts of tyrants and death squads in punishing their own people – it is not gun control for free people. I assure you that the NFA will continue to fight against the Arms Trade Treaty and the Model Firearms Law that would be a result of it.



Sheldon Clare, with M.P. Rob Anders, after concluding a productive meeting during his recent Ottawa junket.

It is a sad fact that fully half of all firearms in Canada do not actually make use of their firearms. It should be the responsibility of each of us to take a friend out to the range and ensure that these important parts of our heritage are made use of by good people, and associated with good people rather than bad ones. Do what you can to make hunting, shooting, and self defence issues an important part of your conversations with other firearms owners and please encourage them to join and support Canada's National Firearms Association as we continue to be Canada's largest and most effective firearms organization.



The Peace Tower in profile.



# MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Par Sheldon Clare

Je vous remercie d'avoir répondu à notre sondage à propos des enjeux qui vous tiennent à coeur et un autre gros merci à ceux qui ont fait un don pour nous aider à protéger nos droits et lutter contre les lois injustes sur le contrôle des armes à feu. Vos réponses nous confirment que nous sommes sur la bonne voie en demandant d'abroger complètement les lois C-68 et C-17. Nous avons découvert, bien sûr, une variété de différentes opinions sur quels devraient être les enjeux prioritaires, mais soyez assurés que nous travaillons sans arrêt pour effectuer des changements positifs à nos mauvaises lois.

Notre réunion générale annuelle (RGA) à Woodstock en mai dernier fût un succès retentissant. Nous avons profité de la présence de plusieurs conférenciers dont: John Lott Jr., Randy Kuntz, Me Solomon Friedman et Gary Mauser. Ce fût un plaisir de leur offrir d'être membre à vie de l'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu (NFA) en reconnaissance

de leur recherches intelligentes et de leurs efforts courageux pour la défense de la liberté.

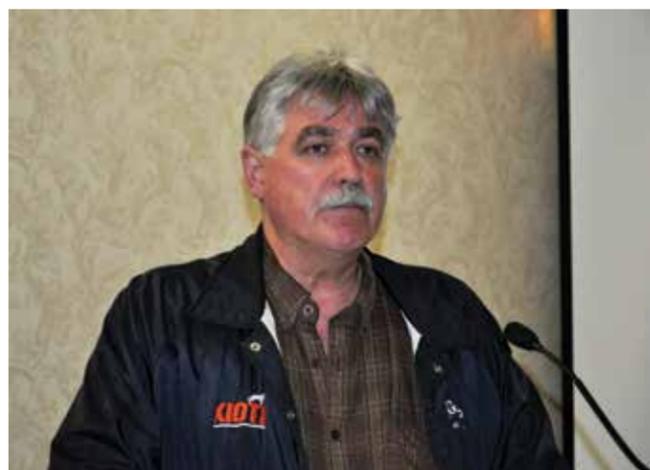
Ian Thomson est venu faire un tour, sans parler en détail de son procès en cours, il a quand même eu l'occasion de parler de sa situation avec plusieurs membres. La NFA est heureuse de lui avoir fait un don de \$1500.00 pour aider à sa défense devant les tribunaux et nous encourageons nos membres de l'aider puisque son procès n'est pas terminé. Vous pouvez envoyer vos dons directement à son avocat:

**EDWARD L. BURLEW, LL.B. in Trust  
Barrister & Solicitor**

**16 John Street**

**Thornhill, Ontario L3T1X8**

**N'oubliez pas d'indiquer que vous êtes membre de la NFA lorsque vous ferez votre don.**



Ian Thomson



Dr. John Lott, Jr.

Après la RGA je suis allé à Ottawa et eu le plaisir de rencontrer plusieurs Députés ainsi que le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères M. John Baird, les Députés Garry Breitkreuz, Rob Anders, Bob Zimmer et Dick Harris entre autres, pour leur parler des enjeux qui nous tiennent à coeur. L'aide de Me Solomon Friedman a été essentielle pour relever l'importance de nos enjeux et aussi qu'il m'ait accompagné durant la visite avec le Ministre Baird. Nous sommes encouragés par le ton de toutes ces rencontres, et souhaitons grandement qu'elles se traduiront par des actions concrètes de la part du Gouvernement dans le dossier des armes à feu. Les actions récentes de plusieurs Contrôleurs des Armes à Feu (CAF) provinciaux qui exigent que les commerçants enregistrent leurs ventes d'armes à feu dans un registre manuel sont un irritant majeur. La NFA a réussi à obtenir et à fournir des copies de la lettre du CAF de l'Ontario à plusieurs personnes clés, cette information s'est répandue comme une trainée de poudre et a reçu l'attention des médias à travers le Canada. Le fait qu'il y ait enfin une discussion ouverte au sujet des armes à feu souligne l'importance d'abroger les mauvaises lois et d'effectuer un changement fondamental à la manière dont on traite les propriétaires d'armes à feu depuis les 30 dernières années. J'ai aussi eu la chance d'être rencontré par Brian Lilley lors de son émission télévisées, Byline, dans laquelle j'ai souligné les dangers du pouvoir bureaucratique policier lorsqu'il est laissé à lui-même dans l'administration de la Loi sur les Armes à Feu.

L'ONU continue de pousser la création du Traité sur le Commerce des Armes (TCA) dont la portée serait mondiale. M. Gary Mauser suit la situation de près. La NFA assistera à la conférence de l'ONU cet été pour y donner son point de vue. Malgré les prétentions de ceux qui demandent le TCA, son effet ne sera pas de contrôler les armes pour atteindre une paix mondiale, il permettra plutôt aux tirants et aux assassins des États de punir leurs propres peuples - ce n'est pas un contrôle des armes pour les peuples libres.

Saviez vous que la moitié des propriétaires d'armes à feu ne se servent pas de leurs armes? Ceci est un bien triste constat. C'est la responsabilité de chacun d'entre nous d'emmener un ami au club de tir pour s'assurer que ces armes, faisant partie importante de notre patrimoine, soient utilisées par de bonnes personnes et qu'avec le temps on associe leur utilisation à ces bonnes personnes plutôt qu'aux malfaiteurs. Faites votre possible pour parler de chasse, tir et légitime défense avec d'autres propriétaires d'armes à feu et encouragez les d'adhérer à l'Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu, puisque nous sommes et continuons d'être la plus grande et la plus efficace organisation Canadienne en matière d'armes à feu.

Sheldon Clare, M.A., Président

Association Canadienne des Propriétaires d'Armes à Feu

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Site web: www.nfa.ca



L-R: Dr. John Lott, Jr., Solomon Friedman, Sheldon Clare, Professor Gary Mauser & Randy Kuntz.



# VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## The Dangers of "Back-Door" Registries

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

Bill C-19 may have ended the registration of long guns in most of Canada, but it didn't end the continuing controversy over firearms laws.

Now it is "backdoor" gun registries.

What is a backdoor gun registry? Well, that is a bit complicated. Many firearms owners are familiar with the traditional firearms business ledger book of their personal information that has been kept by retailers for years. Such info has been recorded in such books for decades; whenever a customer purchased a new rifle or shotgun. This record-keeping exercise was first mandated in the late 1970s as a means of ensuring firearms were only transferred to F.A.C. holders.

Those were simpler times. The ledger was meant to ensure that firearms were only transferred to F.A.C. holders and ensure business compliance. Copying those business records for purposes of establishing a centralized registry would have been prohibitive, given the limitations of the technology of the day and the man-hours required for collating and processing of that data. Not to mention the outcry from Canadians that would've ensued if word had gotten out.

A gun registry? How dare they!

Today, many business inventories and transfer records are computerized. At some point, the provincial CFOs may require that all business inventory and transfer records will have to be computerized and transferable by computer file for the provincial CFO. Not of course for purposes of establishing a "long gun registry", but rather to "ensure compliance" with CFO policy and Firearms Act regulations.

Very efficient.

Under section 58(1) of the Firearms Act provincial chief firearms officers are granted incredible policy-making abilities and the power to enforce them as if they were law. Your provincial CFO has the power to revoke every firearms license in force in your province if that CFO were to decide that it was not in the interests of public safety for individuals to hold them.

This would of course cause untold grief and controversy, but the fact remains that provincial CFOs have unlimited policy-making abilities granted under the 1995 Liberal C-68 Firearms Act, which is still the law of Canada today.

This also includes regulations for licensed firearms businesses. The provincial CFO lays out the policies and regulations under which firearms

businesses must operate. That CFO and firearms officers also have the right to demand information regarding all firearms transfers to firearms license holders contained in those ledgers.

Firearms businesses must comply with this. The provincial CFO owns the data that licensed firearms businesses collect in their ledgers. Not the firearms business.

So, it is perfectly within the purview of provincial CFOs to demand that licensed firearms businesses continue to collect this data by policy edict, even though this requirement was ended under Bill C-19. Furthermore they can also demand that this data be turned over to the provincial CFO for whatever purposes they wish.

The minister of public safety and the Commissioner of the RCMP have released policy statements informing CFOs that they must not go about establishing "long gun registries," but the CFOs have simply maintained that they are not doing so, even though they are empowered by the Firearms Act to do exactly that and more.

Yes, we still have Long Gun Registration through the business firearms ledgers, but it is not an efficient enough registry for purposes of the CFOs.

Could these hard copy paper ledgers still be used to enforce confiscation?

They already have.

Back in the 1991/1992, law enforcement demanded the business firearms ledgers and compiled lists of everyone who purchased firearms prohibited under Justice Minister Kim Campbell's Bill C-17.

They went to the last recorded address and demanded the surrender of those firearms. If you did not turn it over, you were threatened with prosecution if you were ever found in possession of it. In some cases the unsuspecting firearms owner hadn't even had the opportunity to take their new firearm out of the box before the confiscatory knock was heard at their door. No appeals, no recourse, no compensation.

The retention of data collection for non-restricted business firearms transfers could help facilitate the construction of provincial firearms registries, and even the reintroduction of a national long gun registry.

While the deletion of all registry data pertaining to privately-owned long guns was mandated by Bill C-19, Quebec applied for and received an injunction preventing the federal government from carrying out that legislative obligation. As a result, the

pre-Bill C-19 long gun registry data still exists and is still being accessed by law-enforcement and gun control bureaucrats.

If a court finds that Quebec has a right to receive this data, this not only has ramifications for Quebec but also for every other province in Canada. Even if a province did not have immediate plans to construct a provincial long gun registry, why would they not request or accept federal long gun registry data if it was available?

And if that data was transferred to provinces, and non-restricted firearms transfer data was collected from licensed firearms dealers by chief firearms officers, this would lay favorable grounds for the establishment of provincial long gun registries. All that would have to be done would be to demand and coerce those who acquired unregistered long guns through private transfers to register them in the provincial registration scheme, if they wanted to continue to use them for their intended lawful purposes.

Remember, this has nothing to do with public safety. Provincial gun registries would have no force in criminal law, only in administrative law. Under a provincial gun registry, if you were discovered not to hold a registration for your long gun, you

could be fined and have your firearm confiscated. You could not be charged criminally. However, your provincial chief firearms officer could decide that this was also grounds to revoke your firearms license, and the fact remains that you must hold a valid firearms license to be in possession of any firearm, registered or not.

The minister of public safety and the government of Canada must be much clearer in their instructions and direction to the RCMP and the gun control bureaucracy. The Firearms Act is full of trap doors and false ceilings that allow provincial chief firearms officers and the federal firearms bureaucracy itself to ignore the direction of the Government of Canada and its ministers and continue their civil disarmament agenda.

The only realistic solution to this is the total replacement of the 1995 Liberal C-68 Firearms Act with new legislation. Legislation that maintains real systems to ensure public safety, but that also respects the rights and property of Canadians and enshrines responsibility for policy and regulation making with the duly elected Government of Canada and not some petty bureaucrat or political appointee.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NFA,

I read with great interest Dr. Mauser's excellent article "Bureaucracy-An International Threat to Individual Freedom." For years these facts have been obvious to me, not only internationally, but in every level of government that exists. If I were to give the problem a name, it would be: "THE ENEMY WITHIN."

Now, having said that, I wish to qualify my antipathy to bureaucracy by stating it applies only to the types mentioned by Dr. Mauser; those that operate largely in secret, and are seemingly unaccountable to anyone, or any oversight body. In essence, they are de facto mini-dictatorships in their areas of influence.

The answer to the question asked by Dr. Mauser at the end of his article as to what can be done to fight the bureaucratic power these individuals wield seems fairly simple to me, but may sound odd to some. I'd fight fire with fire and create an oversight office (another bureaucracy); one with supreme power to examine any proposed regulatory initiatives stemming from such bureaucracies. I'd also give it the authority to either order revisions or kill it. Its mission statement, to borrow the Lyndon Johnson quote from Dr. Mauser's article: "Our mission is to thoroughly examine all regulations and/or legislation prior to enactment and assess any potential wrongs or harm they may cause to citizens if improperly administered. Revisions and/or deletions will be recommended and acted upon before said regulations/legislation would be permitted to proceed."

Keep up the great work at NFA!

Laird C.

Dear Laird,

Thanks for your letter. You propose an interesting solution to the problem of bureaucracy-run-amok. In light of the recent actions on the part of certain provincial Chief Firearms Officers to actively circumvent the will and intent of Parliament - following passage of Bill C-19, it is a timely one as well.

Obviously the current system is broken and the current Conservative government seems uncharacteristically impotent to reign in these rogue bureaucrats intent on maintaining their own private back-door gun registries. However, I'm not sure creating an umbrella bureaucracy is the best option at this juncture.

A major problem with many key federal bureaucracies, especially those associated with gun control, is that they suffer from an enduring legacy of Liberal influence. Originally appointed under the anti-gun Liberal regime of Jean Chretien, those bureaucrats now occupy most of the critical mid/senior level management positions with the Canadian Firearms Program. They're the people tasked with applying existing regulations and keeping the failing Liberal gun control regime working. They have a vested interest in protecting and preserving the status quo and resist any attempts at reform. At the same time, bureaucratic inertia, which

under ideal conditions is near impossible to overcome, is doubly so when the bureaucrats in question are "true believers" who have been waging their own anti-gun jihad for the past two decades. At the end of the day, it is Ottawa who should be wagging the dog, not the other way around.

- Editors

Dear NFA:

I recently joined the NFA and received my first issue of the CFJ a few weeks back. I've been meaning to write to say how much I enjoyed it - especially the castle doctrine article. Hard to believe that we have to defend our right to defend ourselves in our own homes, but there it is.

Brendan C.

Dear Brendan,

Thanks so much for your kind words and for making the critical decision to play an active part in defending your rights as a responsible firearms owner by joining Canada's National Firearms Association. With the case of Mr. Ian Thomson still making its way through the courts, the issue of castle doctrine issue is one none of us can afford to ignore. Incidentally, Mr. Thomson was a last minute addition to the NFA's roster of guest speakers at the Woodstock AGM this past May. You can read more about his visit later in this issue.

- Editors

Dear NFA:

I just finished reading your May/June 2012 issue. While I enjoyed it, I wanted to bring to your attention a possible issue with the photo collage used to promote your photo contest found on page 47. In the collage, it appears that the lady pictured is shooting the standing youth in the back. I am not criticising the magazine in anyway, but think this one item could have been more properly arranged. I am a subscriber and look forward to reading each issue.

Ken M.

Dear Ken,

Thank you for your kind words and the constructive criticism. The latter is always welcome. Looking at the graphic in question with fresh eyes I can appreciate your concerns. Firearms safety is no joking matter and no potential safety concern is too small to ignore. That is why shooting remains one of the safest recreational activities on the planet. We'll certainly keep your concerns in mind when creating future photo collages.

- Editors

## Corrections:

Please be advised that the feature article, "Gun Test: Beretta A400 Xtreme" attributed to contributor Charles Schafer in our May/June 2012 (Pg. 21-23) issue was incorrectly attributed. The feature's actual author was CFJ contributor **Jeff Helsdon**, our apologies to Jeff and Charles for the inexcusable oversight on our part. Incidentally, you can check out Jeff's latest report on the 2012 AGM (Pg. 34-37) inside this issue.

Also, the editors would like to apologize to NFA Member Thomas E. Lamont. Mr. Lamont was incorrectly attributed as author of the Member's Soapbox (Pg. 30-31) that appeared in the March/April 2012 issue of CFJ. The article should have been more correctly attributed to CFJ editorial staff, instead of Mr. Lamont. The article's content in no way reflects any of his opinions, thoughts or beliefs, as they were presented, and should've been published as an editorial feature, rather than as a Member's Soapbox.

Editor's Note: We reserve the right to edit and revise all submissions for length, clarity and style, in keeping with the standards of NFA publication policies. Editorial changes will be made to improve ease of reading, to correct grammatical and spelling errors, and to fit text into available space. The official policies of the NFA are taken into consideration in determining editorial changes to any solicited or unsolicited manuscript, letter to the editor or other contribution. CFJ staff edited pieces are not reviewed by writers prior to publication. We reserve the right to reject an article or letter submission for any reason. By submitting any articles, letters or photographs to CFJ, contributors grant CFJ the right to publish them in any print or electronic format, including on our website and via RSS syndicated feed.



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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

## Victoria City Policeman Became a Frontier Lawman Legend

By Sybil & Gary K. Kangas



Young John Kirkup.

John Kirkup, born Kempville, Ontario in 1855 was 6'3" in height, well-formed, had curly hair and was a dashing dresser. John arrived in Victoria in 1878, after deciding to leave home for life on the frontier. However, his was not a direct path to Victoria, having first taken-up residence in the fledgling "city" of Winnipeg from 1876 to 1877. There he almost immediately found an apprenticeship in the carriage industry. Certainly it was an odd choice for a man who would become a legendary lawman. However, it paid the bills and it is possible John so easily acquired such employment because Winnipeg of that time was a boom town.

After his time in Manitoba, John made his way to Victoria, British Columbia. Victoria, which was then Canada's farthest Wild West town, was also fast developing as a centre of trade and commerce in this period. The Victoria of 1878, however, was far from the sedate tourist town we know today. There were fur traders, loggers, miners, fisherman,



Left: John Kirkup in Mounted Uniform.

Consultations with a member of Victoria's City Police familiar with its history lead us to believe this image was made in 1880 or 1881. The uniform shown is not that of a B.C. Policeman, as a standard uniform was not officially adopted by the B.C. Police until 1923. The image is probably Kirkup in a Victoria City Police Mounted Unit uniform.

Above: Victoria City Police 1880. Image courtesy of the Victoria City Police.

The constable back row, far right is believed to be John Kirkup. The stick pin in his tie matches the Kirkup photo in mounted uniform.

miner's supply stores, gun shops, saddlers, blacksmiths and farriers, along with saloons, brothels, opium dens and factories, not to mention breweries.

Victoria's inhabitants were just as eclectic. While the majority of her inhabitants were primarily British, Scots and Irish, there were significant populations of Chinese, Hawaiians (known as Kanakas), and First Nations peoples, and not only local First Nations, but also interior B.C. tribes. There were also Iroquois and research reveals



cowboys, sailors, gamblers, vagabonds and thieves all rubbing elbows in their rush to find their fortunes. Commercially the town was booming, with merchants of all kinds plying their wares. Victoria boasted general stores, hardware stores,



Above: If the digital camera had been invented in the 1880's we would have a wonderful collection of candid images.

Image from the authors collection.

Right: Single Action Colt 5 1/2 inch .44-40 displayed with Remington first edition "Done in the Open"

Image authors collection

Cherokee from Tennessee and a significant population of African-Americans also made Victoria their home. This was the milieu that confronted the young John Kirkup at 23 years of age with his arrival in Victoria.

While it is not known for sure what his initial occupation was, after taking-up residence in Victoria, the carriage trade or perhaps day-labor seem likely choices for the young Kirkup. It was not until the following year, in 1879 that the tall, handsome, well-dressed young man joined the Victoria City Police. It is likely that his tenure as a city constable would have been spent on foot patrol and with the town's famed mounted unit.

Victoria was a bustling, vibrant boom town in the period and what a grand, roaring opportunity it presented any young policeman looking to learn his vocation. Interestingly, in the 1880s, the Victoria City Police did not issue firearms, but required members to provide their own sidearm. John's pistol was a 5 1/2 inch Colt Single Action in .44-40. It is thought that it was during this period of on-the-job training that Kirkup developed his own policing style. His disarming manner, sense of humour and ready fists could often cool the hottest of conflicts and dissuade the most resolute of potential malefactors. If not the perpetrators found themselves cooling their heels behind bars, and most likely regretting the haste and lack of wisdom demonstrated by their decision to break the law in John Kirkup's town.

In 1881 a career change would mark the beginning of the legend of "Big John Kirkup" or "Jack the Mountain Sheriff" as he was to become known. In that year Kirkup opted to join the B.C. Provincial Police. His first post was in Yale. Being assigned to one of the most boisterous, disorderly, turbulent and violent centres in B.C. would only serve to enhance his reputation as a peace officer of note.

At the time, Yale was the headquarters of the construction crew building the C.P.R. Railroad. It was also home to thieves,



vagabonds, ruffians, and troublesome, churlish construction workers, who would constantly test Kirkup's authority and ability as a professional lawman. Rather than shooting the otherwise unmanageable, the young lawman preferred to rely on a stout axe handle, his fists or even using his Colt (used as an impromptu club), in order to keep the peace. A quote from Wayne Krewski's bio of Kirkup noted that one of his classic western law-enforcement methods for dealing with two opponents simultaneously was to simply bang their heads together. Whatever got the job done?

Being tough, obviously able to handle himself in any kind of fight, having sound judgment, and being absolutely relentless in his pursuit of outlaws; the tall, well-built, and self-assured Kirkup possessed all the traits necessary to become a western legend. Throughout the 1880s his reputation as a lawman, from the Fraser River to the Kootenay District, continued to grow almost exponentially.

He was respected by all and justifiably feared by those in breach or violation of the law. His celebrity and fame was such that he was quoted by Canadian and U.S. newspapers and came to the attention of Frederick Remington, the famed Western artist, who spent time with Kirkup sketching him in 1889. The sketch appeared in Harpers Magazine in 1890. The artwork was entitled "Big Jack, the Mountain Sheriff."

John Kirkup's confrontations with murderers, bandits, brawlers and hardened pistoleros are the stuff of lurid dime novels. But in Jack's case it was all true. If "Big Jack" had been an

*Heritage... Continue on Page 19*

# POLITICS & GUNS

by Sean Penney

## Lessons not learned: The case of Jesse Sansone



I don't have any kids, as yet, but I do have a couple of precocious nephews that do a pretty good job at filling that role for me. Ryan, the eldest, just turned six. His rambunctious little brother, Caleb is four years of age. While they love doing all the normal things kids their age do, like ride their bikes, play hide & seek or roughhouse with their buddies, there is no mistaking the fact that they hail from a hunting & shooting clan.

When the weather isn't cooperating and they are forced to stay indoors, you're just as likely to find them watching WildTV, as Treehouse or Nickelodeon on the television. (In no particular order, their favourite television shows are Scooby-Doo, The Backyardigans & Jim Shockey's Hunting Adventures!) At home their toy box is mostly filled with brightly coloured Nerf guns, super-soakers and cap guns, along with assorted action figures rather than more politically correct toys.

Obviously given my family's extensive hunting pursuits and competitive shooting activities, our respective homes are pretty-well stocked with firearms of the non-Nerf variety. Of course, all are properly stored to prevent unauthorized access by little fingers. However, the latter has never been a real issue for my nephews. They've been raised around firearms all their life, have been taught gun safety from the very first, and have the ability to differentiate between real firearms and their toy guns.

That isn't to say they never get to touch the real ones. Rather than allow the natural curiosity of kids their ages to percolate and give rise to what I call the "forbidden fruit phenomena," all the boys need do is ask when they'd like to see or hold one of our guns. Hence, there's no mystery left for them to discover.

Their interest in hunting and shooting aside, like most kids, they have fantastic imaginations that often find an outlet via drawing what I call "Crayola masterpieces." While these works of art may feature



Canadians need to ask themselves if children's drawings depicting firearms in use, such as this "Crayola masterpiece" drawn by the author's 6-year-old nephew is good and sufficient reason to suspend the basic Charter rights and freedoms of the artist's subject.

**Please note:** The illustration shown here is not the work of the little girl, Nevaeh Sansone, referenced in the article's text.

and informed that he was being placed under arrest for possession of a firearm. He was handcuffed, patted down, and escorted to a nearby police cruiser in full view of the school's students, teachers and members of the public; without a single arresting officer even bothering to ask if he even owned a gun.

a host of subjects, more often than not they revolve around the outdoors and depict the boys and/or us elders hunting or fishing. Sometimes they go for the "hero" composition, which depicts one of us facing-off against a charging lion, rampaging elephant or the occasional monster or evil-doer. My fridge is literally buried in them, and as new works are produced, the old are quietly removed and filed away for safe-keeping.

Imagine that...kids actually using their imaginations; how much more innocuous can you get? Yet somehow this past February, the forces driving the expansion of the Canadian "nanny state" somehow managed to take exception to even this small spark of individual expression. At the center of what would prove to be a wholly unjustified storm of controversy was four-year-old kindergarten student Nevaeh Sansone.

Nevaeh, like most kids, enjoyed drawing pictures. And just like any four-year-old, she idolized her daddy. In February, she drew a "hero" composition of her daddy, Jesse

Sansone, "shooting monsters and bad guys" on the class whiteboard of her Kitchener elementary school. The teacher, seeing what looked like a gun depicted in the drawing, questioned the little girl about her picture and led her to call the principal. Rather than following-up the matter with the parents, the school administrator immediately called the Waterloo regional offices of Family and Child Services; which then immediately called in the local Waterloo police.

What followed thereafter was nothing short of anti-gun hysteria and nanny-state bureaucracy run-amok; with the full and willing participation of the Waterloo Regional Police Service. At no point in this absurd chain of events did any so-called authority figure or institutional state-actor even stop to consider simply picking up the phone and chatting with Nevaeh's parents about the teacher's concerns. Instead, when the 26-year-old, father of four arrived at his daughter's school to pick up his kids he was intercepted by three officers of the Waterloo Regional Police. Upon his arrival, Mr. Sansone was immediately taken into custody

Mr. Sansone was subsequently transported to the local police station where he was processed and subjected to a demeaning and dehumanizing strip-search. The latter included Mr. Sansone being forced to bend over and having his testicles physically lifted to ensure he was carrying no hidden weapons or contraband; - a type of search that is ordinarily reserved only for the most dangerous and violent of suspects. Adequately humiliated, thereafter Mr. Sansone was placed in a holding cell. Unbelievably, he was still unaware that his arrest and subsequent treatment had been precipitated by a drawing of his daughter's.

Following their father's arrest, the Sansone children were taken into custody by social workers from the Waterloo office of Family and Child Services. Each was questioned individually in order to determine if their safety had been threatened because of the presence of firearms in the home. Waiting at home and completely unaware of the drama playing out at her children's school

was their mother Stephanie. She only became aware of her husband's predicament after police arrived at her door to escort her downtown for questioning.

Thereafter, officers of the Waterloo Regional Police Service carried out a warrantless search of the Sansone home for the assumed illegal firearm depicted in the four-year-old's drawing. A drawing, it later turns out, that only her teacher saw and that no copies of which had been made. After what neighbour's reported as, "hours of searching," the only thing the police turned up was a clear plastic spring-loaded toy gun that shot small plastic balls.

Commonly known as airsoft guns, they sell for as little \$15 at local Wal-Marts or Canadian Tire stores. No "ammunition" was found on site and it was later revealed that the airsoft gun actually belonged to a relative who had inadvertently forgotten the toy during a previous visit.

With no illegal firearm found, no crime having been committed, and no evidence of one ever having been committed, the Sansone's were unceremoniously informed that no charges would be laid and that Mr. Sansone would be free to go. Before he was driven home he was asked to sign a waiver giving permission, after the fact, for the warrantless search of his home. What apologies the Sansone family received from police were nothing, if not half-hearted; while the teacher, school administrator, school board and office of Family and Child Services all remained unapologetic and disturbingly unrepentant.

In the months since the incident, public outrage has grown over the gross overreactions of all the state-actors and bureaucrats involved. And it should. It is not just gun owners who need to be concerned by the decision-making processes at play in this case, but all Canadians. If it happened to Mr. Sansone, it can happen to any one of them.

From my perspective, the Sansone case serves as the perfect representation of everything that is wrong with our current education, social-welfare and law-enforcement institutions. Political correctness, a near system-wide anti-gun institutional ethos, and blind hysteria has superseded common sense and reason. There is simply no way a reasonable person can review the facts of this case and argue that any of the actors involved, not the teacher, not the school principal, not Family and Child Services and not the police acted in a reasonable and measured way.

That's a very big problem for Canadians. When reason

is excised from the equation, as in the Sansone case, and individual citizens are forced to deal with hostile state-actors and institutions that unthinkingly, or deliberately, bring the full weight of the state against them, the entire Canadian social-welfare, criminal justice and enforcement system is brought into disrepute. There is no question that such cases further undermine public trust in the system, and especially our police forces. These state-actors enjoy and exercise a disproportionate amount of power over the lives of individual citizens. Yet, to paraphrase a recent newspaper headline referring to the case, while plenty of mistakes were made, no lessons were learned.

In fact, Waterloo Regional Police Chief Matt Torigian, is on record stating that, "If all the information officers had led them to reasonably believe he [Sansone] may have been in possession of firearm, they acted accordingly." Yet, the fact remains, it is not illegal in Canada to own a firearm, even handguns. Therefore, the question yet to be answered is whether or not the drawing of a four-year-old provides reasonable cause to strip a citizen of his dignity and freedom?

That the Sansone family was so badly abused by the system is unconscionable in a democracy such as Canada. However, it does serve to once more highlight the inherent dangers of unthinking adherence to the "new religion" of political correctness so beloved by supporters of the nanny-state; not to mention the "progressive" social re-engineering movement that is threatening the core rights and freedoms of all Canadians, not just gun owners. That this absurd miscarriage of justice and eschewal of common sense actually happened is bad enough, but that its primary architects will face no reprimands or consequences for their ham-fisted, fascist-like actions is simply outrageous.

In early June, Waterloo Regional Police released the results of their internal review of the affair. According to the statement released by Chief Matt Torigian, "The results of this review have determined that Waterloo Regional Police officers acted in accordance with the law by arresting Mr. Sansone and made every effort to preserve his dignity and the safety of this community." Alison Scott, executive director of Family and Child Services is equally unrepentant for her office's heavy-handed actions in the affair. In a recent interview she argued that her office, "followed proper standards and procedures," and as such did not see, "...any need for our agency to apologize for

fulfilling our mandated responsibility."

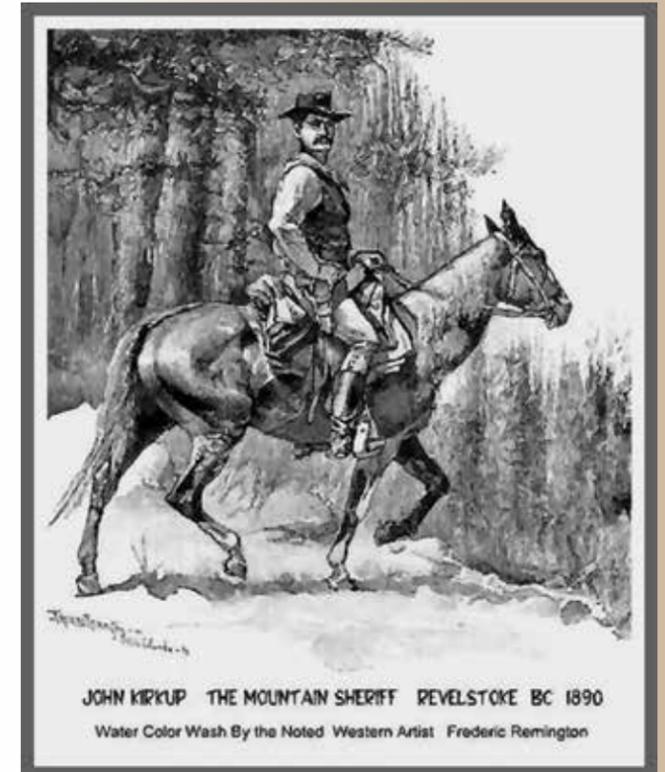
As with child services, no apologies or changes in policy have been forthcoming from the teacher, who started this entire mess, the school administrator, or the school board, - nor is any expected. In fact, as outrageous as it sounds, the school board continues to insist that they did the right thing because they "co-parent," alongside the Sansone's! This is the arrogance and hubris of the "nanny-state" made manifest! The Sansone kids have since found a new school.

Obviously, it is time we started pulling down the proverbial ivory towers that have protected the bulwarks of the liberal nanny-state. With power must come responsibility and both the public and government must become more vigilant in holding the agents of such institutions accountable for their actions. The Jesse Sansone case dramatically reinforces this necessity. Despite broad public outrage over their collective actions, none of the principal actors have even come close to acknowledging that their responses were wholly disproportionate given the facts of the case. That they have refused to accept responsibility, in and of itself, is enough to call into question their judgement.

Such actors need to be reminded that they are public servants who serve at the pleasure of the public. Those that abuse their power or position, or opt to use the same to advance their own personal political agendas should have to face the consequences of their decisions. Whether it was anti-gun hysteria or bias, or simply an example of nanny-state bureaucracies following agency standard operating protocols to the point of absurdity, it doesn't matter. Sweeping reforms are urgently required in order to preserve public confidence and restore balance and reason to the equation.

It is clear that the "system," of which Ms. Scott of Family and Child Services, the superintendant of the Sansone's former school board, and Chief Torigian of the Waterloo Regional Police Services are a part, is broken. The critical question is whether or not it is irreparably so. Without decisive remedial action, history will repeat, and other innocent, law-abiding citizens will find themselves victimized as Jesse Sansone was. Now is the time to speak out and let your elected representatives know that this possibility is completely unacceptable in our Canada.

## Heritage... Continued From Page 15



Frederick Remington's sketch courtesy Kirkup Family.

American, the name Kirkup would be a household word today and spoken of with the same reverence as Hickok, Masterson or Earp.

However, unlike the now accepted "legends" of many other lawmen of the period, Kirkup was not a one-dimensional figure. The true historical perspective that emerges is that of a temperate individual who was resolute and tough, with a sense of humour and disarming manner. Again, all the components for the construction of legend were present. This truth would be borne out by a quote from an article written by Harold Kingsmill in 1897 from the first history of Rossland, B.C. and the Trail Creek District. Kingsmill wrote, "the name of Jack Kirkup will go down to history not only as a fearless peace officer, but as the one name that has contributed most to the exceptional regard for law and order that has up to the present time prevailed in the Kootenays".

As our research unfolds, we hope to share more of John Kirkup's incredible career, in even greater detail, in a future issue of Canadian Firearms Journal. Preserving our firearms heritage by studying Canada's Wild West.

Images: B.C. Museum & Archives, Gary K. Kangas, Kirkup Family, Rossland Museum & Archives, Victoria City Police.

Sources: Kirkup Family, Wayne Krewski (Ridge Records), Rossland Museum & Archives, Victoria City Police.



TEAM

# TEAM NFA UPDATE

By Grayson Penney

## ROB "FANG" ENGH



By the time our member's read this update, Team NFA member Rob Engh's 2012 race season will be well underway. I recently caught up with Rob as he arrived back in the Czech Republic, after shooting the Kongsvinger Open in Norway. Rob seems to be on the mend after sustaining a serious injury at the World Shoot in Greece last fall; ultimately placing 8th overall in Production Division, - with 85% of world champ Bob Vogel! Next up for Rob was the Extreme Euro Open 2012 held in Hodonice, Czech Republic slated to run June 7th-9th. Buoyed by his success in Kongsvinger, Rob was confident heading to Hodonice.

Following his mini-European race tour, Rob will be back on home soil by mid-June to start training for the Nationals in Brandon, Manitoba. Incidentally, Rob kicked off his season with a 2nd place finish at Thompson Mountain in May, finishing with 94% and 95% to winner Nick King. Pretty darn good for an athlete still recovering from a serious knee injury. Let's hope the recovery continues and we wish Rob well at Nationals!



Top: Competing in the Czech Republic in 2011  
Left: Rob after finishing competition for the day.  
Above: A representative stage at this year's Extreme Euro Open

## MATT NEUMANN

After a well-deserved break, Matt is back in training and aiming to improve his ski times as much as possible over the next 6-7 months. Matt is enthused over just how productive this training season has been thus far and it seems his decision to take road cycling more seriously under his new training regime is starting to pay off for him. As part of that process, Matt is scheduled to race in a number of races over the spring and summer, including the Banff Bike Fest (June 14-17), along with a number of smaller local Bow Valley races.

Matt's first race of the year was Pigeon Lake (provincial championship) where he finished 7th in Category 5 competition. He had been on pace to finish much higher, but some admitted "bad timing" on his part in the final sprint saw him drop in the standings. Given Matt's relative inexperience in cycling competition such mistakes serve more as valuable learning tools than anything else.



According to Matt he is continuing to adapt well to the new style of competition. He believes that the lessons he's learning as a competitive cyclist now will transfer to his skiing and help improve his performance this winter.

In addition to his cycling, there are many other components to his training that Matt has to focus on during this time of

Top: Matt cycling Highwood Pass, the highest paved road in Canada! Despite it being late spring, winter is clearly still in evidence. Photo credit: Tyson Smith

Left: Matt leading a breakaway rush at Pigeon Lake Provincial Championships this spring.

Below: Matt posing with his road bike.

year. The normal regime includes running, roller-skiing, glacier training, strength training and working on his marksmanship. However, all of that isn't possible without being accompanied by proper nutrition and allowing for adequate recovery time so that his body can heal itself.

According to Matt, despite some early mornings working at the local golf course, he's still feeling motivated, fresh and excited to train hard. He says that he feels stronger than he did during all of last summer, and remains determined to maintain that momentum through to the start of race season. All of us here at NFA wish him every success.

## MEGAN HEINICKE

Instead of having to deal with "March Madness" this year, Team NFA member Megan Heinicke was confronted with "May Madness," as she uprooted her entire family and moved to Altenberg, Germany.

Megan will be training at the German National Training Centre in Altenberg until the 2014 Olympics, while her husband, iLmar, will be assuming the duties of head coach

and head of the training centre. Despite the hubbub and confusion that any major move brings with it, Megan hit the ground running and kicked-off her training with a challenging uphill double poling test on the first official training day of the season. According to Megan it was a very steep and somewhat painful 2.8km, but it was a good start and had her motivated to improve right from the get go. The newfound motivation and hard work, including numerous long flat double poling sessions, was quick to pay dividends. In just a few weeks Megan reported that she significantly improved her test time.

Like Matt, during the spring, Megan focuses much of her training on building strength and endurance. This translates into a lot of cycle work and frequent endurance rides, which she says she enjoys immensely. As an added bonus, the rides also gave her a chance to get to know her new teammates and familiarize herself with the local area.

In addition to the extensive road work, Megan continued to practice her shooting and has worked at improving and maintaining her skiing form via roller-ski training. As the finale to her first big training block, she opted to roller-ski along the Elbe Radweg (a paved bike path that runs along the Elbe River) for 66km, from Mießen to Königstein. As



*Megan visibly happy to be arriving in Königstein after 66km of roller skiing!*



*Megan doing more road work with son Predo in tow.*



*Megan starting out on one of her many long cycling sessions.*

she tells it, the marathon trip was as much a mental challenge as a physical one. According to Megan, after more than four hours of skiing against a steady headwind, she was both relieved and delighted to finally arrive in Königstein, and was unashamedly looking toward a well deserved day of rest.

The new training center and regime seem to be a good fit for Megan. At last report she is looking forward to all the hard work necessary to prepare her for the start of the 2012-2013 race season. In the meantime the Heinicke family seems to have settled into their new home without any major hiccups and Megan appears to be on pace for a triumphant return to international competition this season.



*Top: Megan hard at work strength training. Above: Megan relaxing between heats this past spring.*

# BERTRAM BULLET COMPANY

## PART 1

By Darrell Hartwick



One of the pleasures of shooting is the ability to bring pieces of history back to life by using old or obsolete firearms. There is no doubt that having an accurate rifle or handgun to hunt, target shoot or simply plink with provides a wealth of enjoyment but at some point in anyone's life, shooting another round of .38 Special or .308 becomes rather mundane.

For many of us, engaging in historical re-enactments, cowboy action shooting or just plinking with an older firearm is intriguing, not only for the escape into the past, but, because it gives us a chance to experience using a gun from the period of our grandparents or great-grandparents.

When we think of antique firearms, most often what comes to mind are muzzleloaders or perhaps the narrow legal definition, specified in the detested Bill C-68 penned under the now discredited Jean Chretien and Alan Rock. Yet, antiques are more than muzzleloaders or single shot rifles – over the past 30 years we have been fortunate to have had a host of rifles imported into Canada from surplus military stocks around the world that have offered Canadian shooters unique and new shooting experiences. Not to be forgotten or dismissed, are those tens of thousands of family heirlooms and relics that have been sitting in closets and gun cabinets for years, sometimes decades, until some enterprising shooter stumbles across them and grants them a second chance at usefulness.

Whether it is an 8X60R Kropatschek from Portugal, a .401 WSL that our grandfather owned or that little .310 Martini Cadet that fortunately was not re-barreled, there are few shooters who have not seen or owned an odd-ball gem. This does not even begin to scratch the surface of rifles such as the hordes of .577 Sniders or .577/.450 Martinis that carry Canadian military cartouches on their buttstocks.

More than a few of you will say that shooting a Snider or Martini is to risk a piece of military history and in some cases that may be true. Yet I would argue that these rifles deserve better than relegated to being nothing more than wall decorations or dust collectors. At one time they represented the cutting-edge of military small arms and may have even served to defend our nation. For that reason they deserve our respect and appreciation. Of course a vintage firearm should be checked by a qualified gunsmith to ensure that it is mechanically sound but, the reality is that most were built to last, and even after more than 100 years many remain fully functional and ready for service.

It used to be that firing a heritage firearm meant loading blackpowder and trying to scrounge up old moulds to cast the correct bullets. This is still the situation now in some circumstances. Nonetheless we have never had it so good – especially when it comes to sourcing custom bullet moulds from companies such as NEI or NOE, and is far simpler

than in the past. Even mainline companies such as Lyman, RCBS or SAECO continue to produce an excellent variety of lead bullet moulds and periodically will even offer formerly retired mould patterns for sale. Shooters who prefer jacketed bullets are also finding that their bullet choices for obsolete and obsolescent calibers are expanding – we can now get .268 – 6.5 mm bullets for 6.5X52 Carcanos and .330 – 8 mm bullets for 8X56R Austrian straight-pull bolt rifles, calibers that were next to impossible to source just a few short years ago in any quantity.

The other big breakthrough has been in the area of propellants. While we can still use dirty powders such as blackpowder and Pyrodex, a new benchmark has been set with Hodgson's Trail Boss powder which safely duplicates blackpowder velocities, but with none of the mess.

If you enjoy shooting obsolete cartridge rifles there is only one thing missing, the brass for them. Here the story is a bit more complicated, since the options vary quite a bit. Some cases are made by mainstream manufacturers such as Norma or Prvi and while their availability does vary, they are out there for the Canadian shooting fraternity. Rounds such as the 6.5X52 Carcano or 7.62X54R Russian, either as loaded ammo or empty cases, are not hard to get – even 7.92X33 Kurz can be found with a little searching on the Internet or at your local gun show.

The next category is those calibers whose cases can be formed from other, more readily available, cartridge cases. Examples include the 8X52R Thai round, which can be fashioned from

45-70 brass with a little work and some fire-forming. The same applies to equally rare 8X60R Kropatschek, which thankfully can be formed from .348 Winchester cases. Alas, the same cannot be said for calibers such as the venerable .577 Snider or the diminutive .310 Cadet or the surprisingly common .351 WSL. Of course, while they can be turned from brass stock, their useful service life will never match properly drawn brass cases.

Complicating the lives of handloaders further are many of the metric rounds so favoured by European armies which typically utilize the Berdan priming system. While it is technically possible, in practical terms, trying to recycle ancient, Berdan primed military cases is not much of an option. But the strength of the free enterprise system is such that discrepancies such as these will be remedied by creative solutions. The Canadian shooting fraternity is fortunate to have an ally located half-way around the world in Australia. The Bertram Bullet Company, founded by Bruce Bertram, and relying on the tooling skills of his son David, has done more to offer heritage rifles a second lease on life than any other company in the past 50 years.

At a time when boutique cartridge makers such as Bell, Quality and others come and go, Bertram has been constantly growing and broadening his product offering, and now makes over 150 cartridge cases. Whether it is 11.2X72 Schuler or the .375 Nitro (2.5 inch), or a host of other obsolete Metric, British or American cases you require, chances are you can find it somewhere in the Bertram catalog.



*Obsolete rounds can be formed in some cases from existing cases, although the headstamp will not be correct. (Left-Right, 45-70 converted to 8X52R Thai, .348 Winchester converted to 8X60R Kropatschek).*



Going from a 70/30 brass cup to a .338 Lapua rifle cartridge involves a lot of engineering

During a recent trip to Australia I had the opportunity to visit Bruce Bertram and discuss the status of his company and see first-hand how he makes the cases that we all take for granted.

One of the first things I learned, as we began the tour of the factory, is that Bertram produces more than just obsolete cases. While I was there the facility was running at full capacity just making .338 Lapua cases – about as far as you can get from what I expected to see and plans were underway to begin production of .458 Socom (for the AR-15 platform), another ultra-modern design.

Bruce took time to talk about his business before giving a tour of his plant and showing how he takes a small brass cup and converts it into a case that we handloaders rely upon.

**Q: When I think of Bertram what comes to mind are the red boxes with the kangaroo on them and cases for some quirky caliber inside. How did you get to the**

**point that you are the largest global supplier of obsolete brass?**

**A:** Opportunities come along and in my case there was a small Australian manufacturer, Super Cartridge, who wanted to get out of the business and I bought his assets back in 1982. This got me started, but in large part you can actually thank the Australian government for putting me on the map, so to speak. Just as you saw happen at your Longbranch in Canada, when the Australian government decided to outsource the manufacture of ammunition, they sold all the equipment to make brass cartridge cases for scrap metal. Equipment that was designed for one purpose and which would be incredibly expensive to re-create was discarded. I was fortunate to pick-up everything that I needed to be a fully integrated bullet and case producer. This provided me with the flexibility to make any case or projectile suitable for a shoulder arm.

**Q: So you started your business to make specialty cases?**

**A:** No, I had thought that there was a market for Australian made cases for the local market – after all, you are not going to see Winchester make 303/25 brass for shooters here – the demand is simply too low. What I found out was that except for some odd ones like that, I could not compete on the price for mainstream brass.

**Q: Not being big does have its advantages?**

**A:** Exactly, not being one of the big companies, I have the flexibility to manufacture small run brass and do it well. It is surprising to see how rifles make their way around and we get regular requests from Canada and the USA for .310 Cadet – a round never used or even produced in either country. Perennial favourites such as the .577 Snider and the .577/450 Martini-Henry are not just limited to Commonwealth countries.



Bertram produces a full range of European, North American and British cases. (Some examples include from left to right 5.6X33R, 7.65 MAS, .401 WSL, 11.2X72 Schuler, .450 No.1 Carbine, .577 Snider, 577/450 Martini-Henry, .461 Gibbs, .450/400).

**Q: Is being located in Australia a bit of a liability when it comes to marketing your product?**

**A:** It is true that being this far away from the USA makes it difficult in some ways but it also offers some benefits. Although the USA is a large market, not being close to it eliminates the temptation to rely solely on it and instead we ship to over 10 countries/regions. In effect we have channels to market in every significant sporting firearms market on the planet. We carry a broad selection of metric cases going from the 5.3X33R Rook to the 11.2X72 Shuler, so we can cater to the European market. Also being in Australia means that we have a strong customer focus.

**Q: When you talk about customer focus do you mean that you can process orders quickly or do you mean something else?**

**A:** In part I was talking about the commitment to quality products and service that everyone here aims for but it is more than that. If you approached Remington and asked them to make a case with your headstamp on it or produce a limited production run, a million cases would barely get their interest given their overhead costs and production systems. By contrast we can do custom work on much smaller runs whether it is a headstamp or a new cartridge case. We can do large runs but our specialty is the 10,000 – 1 million case runs.

**Q: I noticed the .458 SOCOM on your desk and you are running .338 Lapua right now – this is a bit of surprise to me.**

**A:** I realize that the perception out there is that Bertram is only obsolete brass but that is a long way from being correct. We have a core market that is obsolete calibers but our flexible manufacturing process means that we can make any cartridge case to commercial or milspec standards in runs that the major companies will not do. Specialty ammunition makers now realize that we can offer them service that is hard, or impossible, to get anywhere else. We will not walk away from our support of obsolete cartridges but we will continue to expand into modern calibers as well.

**Q: I notice that your son David works here – so it really is a family business?**

**A:** Dave is the mechanical heart of this business. All the staff support the operation but Dave designs and makes the dies and tooling that allows us to make the cases. Whether it is a drawing die or a header, nothing gets used here without his approval. Having a tool and die maker in the family means that we have personal control over the equipment that is used. Dave has made every die we have and while they look simple, they are precision tools with tolerances at 0.0001 inches.



Carbide sizing dies along with drawing punch arranged as they are inside a press.

**Q: You mentioned before that Bertram has expanded beyond its core market and is now making modern cases. Is there anything else that you make?**

**A:** While it is for the Australian market, since freight costs are so high, we also make a broad range of traditional cup & core bullets – which is reflected in our name, the Bertram Bullet Co. When we started, the idea was to make quality, economical bullets for big bore rifles – ranging from the .404 Jeffery to the 600 Nitro and even the .55 Boys. We wanted to supply the Australian market with bullets that let them shoot a lot more without breaking the bank. We now also make lots of smaller caliber projectiles for .308 and .303 rifles.

**Q: This seems like quite a departure from making cases to making bullets?**

**A:** Not really, Dave and I are both avid big game hunters so we know what it takes to make a good bullet, since we shoot our own. Drawing bullet jackets uses the same process as for making a cartridge case, and we already had all the equipment to make bullets, so it was a relatively easy transition. We extrude our own lead wire and Dave has made the dies that give us a pretty good range of bullets for the Australian shooter. While it will never replace our cartridge business it is another way we can support local shooters.

**Q: What was the hardest challenge you have faced over the years as you built your business?**

**A:** Probably the biggest challenge was just getting accepted since we are not in the US. Initially there was a lot of skepticism about our product quality and even today you read about how our brass is not as polished as another company's, and therefore must not be as good. It is funny how brass we make on a contract basis for other companies suddenly becomes reported as better quality if it is polished before distribution – when it came from the same run as ones with my name on it.

Check out the next issue of CFJ where we will see how Bertram brass is made in the second part of Bertram Bullet Company.

- Editors



# GUN JOBS: RETAIL SALES

BY AL VOTH

I think it's correct to say that the first contact most gun owners have with someone who works a "gun-job" is the retailer on the other side of the gun shop counter. In very small shops this might be the owner, but it's more likely to be an employee, and that's who we're going to focus on in this glimpse at a gun-job.

Since we'll eventually take a close look at the small gun shop owner, I thought it would be fitting to look inside a bigger store when putting a retail firearms sales job under the microscope. And

one of the biggest retailers of firearms in Canada is Wholesale Sports. This Canadian chain operates eleven stores in the western provinces and fourteen stores in the USA's Pacific Northwest. They also operate a busy mail-order business via their website and annual paper catalogues.

That adds up to a lot of employees, and while any of their Canadian locations would have sufficed to research this story, logistics dictated a location close to home. That meant an Edmonton store, and with the co-operation of

Wholesale Sports' head office, that's where I found George Christensen.

At 85 years of age and with twenty-five years of retail firearms sales under his belt, George has a lot of experience in not only firearms sales, but life in general. He's the resident grandfather at the North Edmonton store and has been with Wholesale Sports since their early days in Edmonton. His current job is actually a second career, because after retiring from operating his own successful real estate company, life proved too boring. Being a life-long

hunter anyway, he went looking for a retirement job; a search that led him into firearm sales.

He worked for another employer initially, but when that store closed, shortly after Wholesale Sports opened, it allowed him to make a quick transition. He's been working for the Wholesale Sports team ever since.

When I asked George what a typical retail job is like, he replied that a lot of the job is exactly what the customer sees from his side of the counter. However, there are some things the customer never sees. This includes the duties performed before the store even opens, when employees working the first shift of a business day must do a patrol of their sales area. Restocking, tidying and facing are duties on the





ownership of them, and always called them “my” customers.

So, it wasn’t surprising when I asked him what the best thing about working retail was, he quickly replied with thoughts like, “the feeling customers are a family,” and “customer loyalty.” He said, “When I see customers wait for me to serve them, even though other sales associates are free and offering to help, it lets me know I’m doing something right. The personal relationship I’ve developed with my customers is the best thing about this job.”

Of course, a question about what’s best has to be followed with what’s worst, and George’s response was again related to his customers. “I hate disappointing my customers,” he said. “When that happens it’s most often due to lack of product. My customers come in looking for something, and for whatever reason we haven’t got it.”

“Is that when customers can become difficult?” I asked.

“Sometimes,” he agreed. “However, when I explain to them why we’re out of a product or why we can’t get it here in Canada at all, and agree with them that it’s not the ideal situation; then they usually leave with a better understanding of the problems the store is facing.”

“What difference will the removal of the long-gun registry make?” I asked.

agenda. I wasn’t familiar with the term “facing,” so George explained this is simply moving product from the back of a shelf display to the front, to replace sold product. This ensures the store’s stock remains visible and available to the customer.

Then, once the store opens, his primary duties shift to looking after the customer. In their store, the time period from opening until about 11:30 a.m. will be busy. Things slow over the lunch hour and until about 2:00 p.m. when things pick up again until closing time. However, that schedule only holds true for weekdays. On weekends the store can be busy all the time. Especially from about the middle of August, until the end of November when the gun counter enjoys its annual hunting season sales rush. During the quiet times, George says a good sales associate will keep busy doing house cleaning, restocking or keeping up to

date on new products.

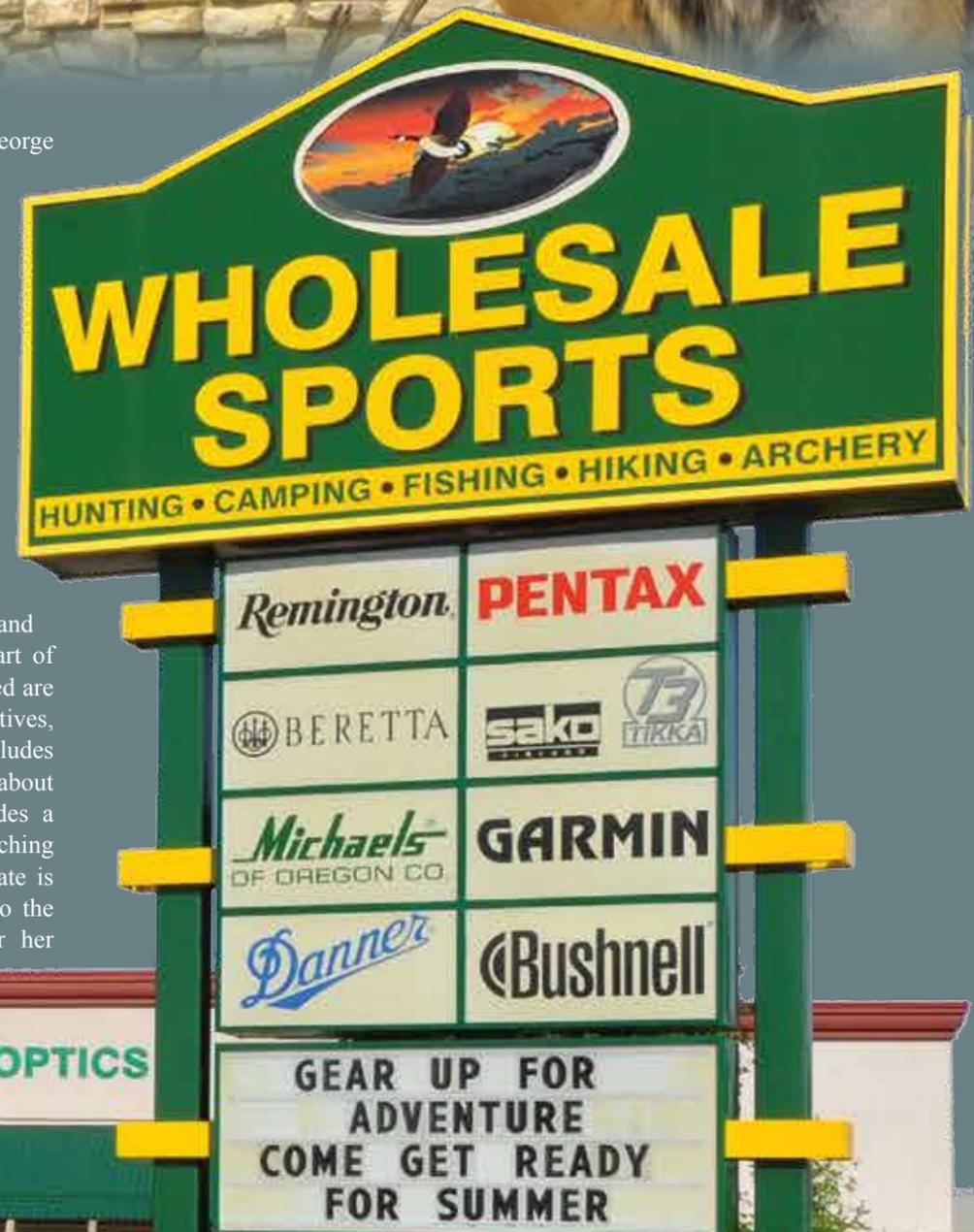
However, the key part of the job, according to George, is serving the customer. To succeed at this job, he says you need two things; good product knowledge and excellent people skills. In the latter category, qualities like patience, friendliness and a willingness to serve others are primary. He’s seen a lot of employees come and go and says the ones that stay are those who are service oriented. He inadvertently demonstrated this during my interview as he repeatedly referred to the people who walk into the store as “my” customers. They were never the store’s customers or Wholesales’ customers; instead he took

CUSTOMER SERVICE



“It’s a good thing it’s gone,” George nodded. “From my side of the counter, one of the benefits will be that the customer can get out the door and start enjoying his new gun quicker. That’s better service.”

Obviously, George has seen a lot of changes over the years, both in products and in how they are sold. When I asked him how he keeps up with those changes, he told me the store’s system of educating and updating employees is the primary method. Information bulletins, videos and manufacturer’s catalogues are part of how this is done, but also included are the manufacturer’s representatives, whose job description includes educating retail sales people about their products. The store provides a board room where this kind of teaching can take place. The sales associate is then the one who passes it on to the customer when helping him or her



make a purchasing decision.

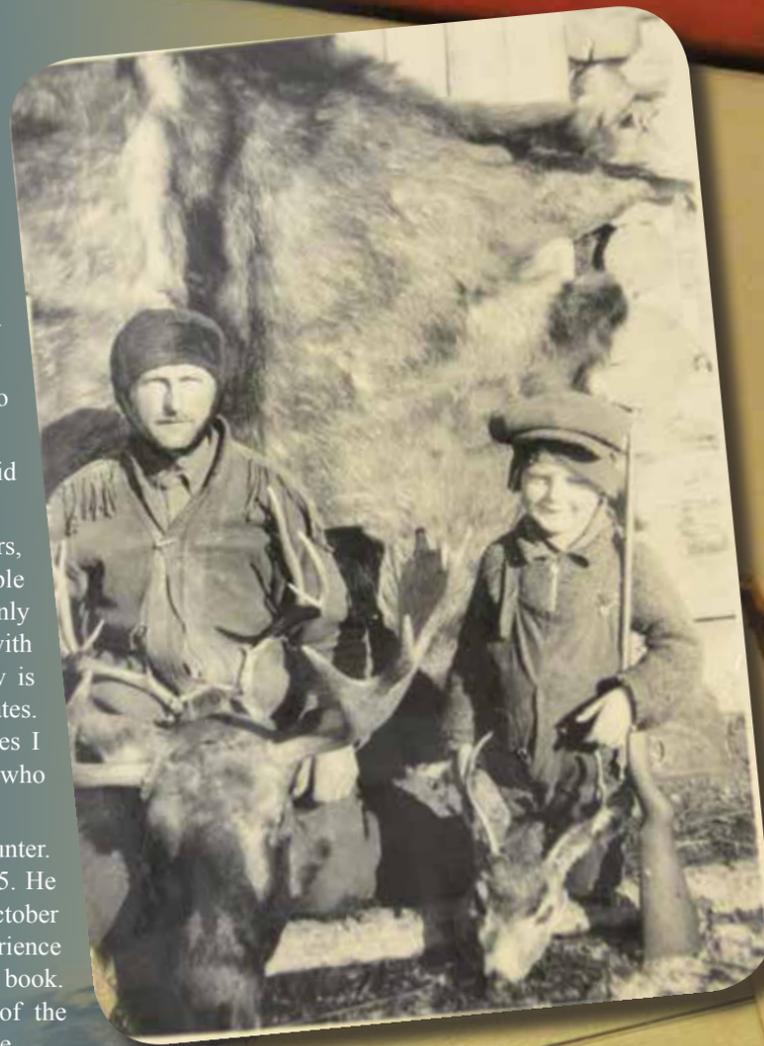
Like most people, George was reluctant to talk about how much he earns. "Its retail," he said with a smile, when I asked about salary. "It would be really tough to raise a family on retail wages. But then, I don't have to, I'm retired. I have a pension and investments. I work here because I want to—not for the money."

"Low wages must make it more difficult to attract qualified people," I suggested.

"I don't get involved in hiring," George said diplomatically.

From my conversations with gun shop owners, I know getting gun-knowledgeable people to work for retail wages is not easy. Certainly in Alberta, where retailers can't compete with oil patch wages, every gun retailer I know is accepting applications from qualified candidates. And George seems to fit one of the profiles I often see behind a gun-counter; the retiree who wants to work at something he loves.

He didn't talk about it much, but George is a hunter. Not was a hunter, he is a hunter; even at 85. He showed me his first hunting license, dated October 14, 1944. You can't buy that kind of experience nor can you get it from a website or from a book. Fortunately for newcomers to the world of the gun, there are people like George who have a lifetime of experience and the willingness to share it with others. They are key to helping new shooters make wise purchasing decisions and getting them started in the right direction.



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# AGTM

By Jeff Helsdon



**The mood was a little more jovial as the association's efforts in seeing the end of the long gun registry brought in with Bill C-68 finally paid off.**

Bill Rantz of Port Sydney has been attending conventions for seven years and noted a sense of jubilation with the registry gone. "There's also the feeling of going after the next one, which might be storage regulations. There's that feeling you are on a roll."

"We're winning this," said President Sheldon Clare. "This is the first time in modern history a firearms law has been repealed."

Vice-president Blair Hagen also sensed the optimism. "There's a lot more work to do," he said. "The long gun registry may be gone, but the Firearms Act is still there. The whole thing needs to be replaced."

"The excitement really revolves around the recognition this is the first time



Canadian firearms owners have seen any rollback of legislation," said Ontario director Henry Atkinson. "At the same time, we see it as a token. It's just beginning of what needs to be done with firearms law in this country."

Held in Woodstock, Ontario, the convention was the first held outside Alberta in many years.

"It's really important to be a national organization and show it," said Clare.

"The reason Woodstock was picked is there is a large concentration of members, plus it's central," said director Phil Simard.

There was even mention a future conference could be held in Quebec. "Let's go to the belly of the beast and



stare them down," Clare joked of the province that is considered the hotbed of gun control. "Quebec has lots of firearms owners. We're just getting to the point where we can provide resources to them in French."

Simard said there about 600 members in Quebec. "The difficulty we had for years was a lack of French documentation." That problem has been addressed with hiring bilingual executive director Ginger Fournier

# 2012



violent crime started to decline. Lott went one step further, saying in locations where concealed carry is allowed, murder rates are even lower. "When the law-abiding citizen carries guns, criminals are less likely to carry guns." Island nations such as Ireland and Jamaica provide an even clearer cut picture because of their isolation. Ireland's murder rate climbed drastically following a gun ban. Jamaica had murder rates similar to the United States until a gun ban was put in place.



### Dynamic speakers

Following the Friday night social, Saturday morning saw a packed line up of world-renowned speakers on firearms issues including Dr. John Lott, Jr., Randy Kuntz, Professor Gary Mauser, and Solomon Friedman.

### Do Guns Make Places Safer?

That was the question posed by Dr. John Lott, renowned academic and author of More Guns, Less Crime, to kick-off his presentation.

Looking at statistics from across the world, Lott said murder rates don't fall in the wake of gun bans. "We've seen murder rates go up [after bans], a lot some times, but just a little in all cases," he said, citing Chicago and Washington, DC as examples. In Chicago's case, murder rates were falling until a gun ban was put in place, and then rates started to climb. After the Supreme Court struck down the ban, murder and

### A different police viewpoint

When Randy Kuntz, a 24-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Force, heard his fellow officers supported the long gun registry, he didn't believe it. He took matters into his own hands, and did his own survey. Of 2,631 officers who responded, 2,410 said scrap the registry. He said 92 per cent of street officers favoured scrapping the registry.

However, political chiefs and their supporting organizations such as the CACP (Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police), as well as the Canadian Police Association, the union ostensibly representing line officers, are on record in support of the registry. They have argued that it is a valuable police tool. Kuntz rejects this assertion, pointing out that whenever he responded to a call, he always went in with the assumption that anybody he would possibly encounter could have a gun; concluding, "That's how as a police officer stays alive."

He presented his survey information to the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and said it went over like a "lead balloon".

Now that the long gun registry is gone, Kuntz would like to go one step further and get rid of the handgun registry, which was first established in 1934. "There's hundreds, if not thousands, of police officers out there who feel the same way," he said. "You have their silent support."

Kuntz said police have gone from concentrating on protecting people to generating revenue. "We don't set up cameras in high crime areas, we set up cameras in high-traffic areas," he said.

He would like to see people have the right to protect themselves.

“As a police officer, I can tell you calling 9-1-1 will get you killed every time. When seconds count, police are minutes away.”

Kuntz is a hunter safety and firearms safety instructor and testified in the hearings before Parliament on the long gun bill.

### Friend or foe?

Professor Gary Mauser asked the question if the United Nations is a powerful world government dedicated to controlling every inch of living or if it is a pacifist group that will bring peace. He said the truth is the UN is neither. “The UN is both more hideous and less powerful than you can imagine,” he said.

Mauser went on to describe the UN as an un-elected government with no oversight. It has a huge department called disarmament that started initially to deal with the threat of nuclear weapons in the 1950s. Today, it is the organization pushing the firearms marking scheme Canadian gun owners and the firearms industry fear could wreak havoc if it were ever implemented. It would require that all guns, including sporting arms, be marked with a unique number associated with the import date and country of import, in addition to the

serial number already assigned by the manufacturer.

The UN is also pushing the Arms Trade Treaty, which would implement new restrictions on firearms trade. Canada is pushing for an exemption to the treaty for sporting firearms.

Of the 193 member countries in the UN, Mauser pointed out two-thirds are developing nations. “Very few of the countries are functioning democracies,” he said.

The UN created a model set of firearms laws that any country could adopt.

### A lawyer's viewpoint

Ottawa defence and firearms lawyer Solomon Friedman provided an update on a new potential threat to firearms owners. He said a public safety warrant is not covered in the Criminal Code. He said it is easier for police to lay charges and Crown attorneys to prosecute as a result. And, the scary part is any member of the public can report a public safety concern with no evidence.

A public safety warrant can result in a tactical unit being dispatched, firearms forfeiture and prohibition. A forfeiture order can be issued by the court even if no criminal offence has been committed. Friedman said his drug-dealing clients have more rights.

The standard of proof in criminal law is proof beyond a reasonable doubt. But with a public safety warrant, it is only a balance of probability. Statements taken contrary to the accused's rights are admissible in public safety hearings.

Friedman advised it's better for firearms owners to exceed the public standard of law as his defence focuses on if the firearm owner is a responsible gun owner.

Friedman reminded the crowd that Canadians don't have the right to bear arms. “The Supreme Court has told us firearms ownership is a heavily regulated privilege,” he said.

### Wrap-up

NFA Ontario Director Henry Atkinson was one of the organizers of the convention and was impressed with the turnout of close to 100 people for the Saturday night banquet. He pushed for the location in Woodstock, saying it was close to Otter Valley Rod and Gun Club, which has 200 NFA members, and is also mid-way between Windsor and Toronto, where there is good concentration of members.

The annual meeting will also be held in Woodstock next year and in Vancouver in 2014.



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

# The International Front IS THE UNITED NATIONS OUR FRIEND?



By Gary Mauser

The short answer is, “No. The UN is not the friend of civilian firearms owners.” Read further to get a longer explanation.

The United Nations is a hotbed of initiatives that will either intentionally or incidentally disarm civilians. The three most important of these proposals are the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) program, the Model Firearms Law, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This summer, the ATT will move another step further towards disarming peaceable civilians around the world. Canada’s NFA and the World Forum on The Future of Sport Shooting Activities will be there in New York to defend your rights.

None of the UN’s proposed programs is fully operational yet, but the basic outlines are clear. The stated goal of each is to improve political stability by keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and criminals, but as worthy as this goal may be, the UN’s approach is to create labyrinthine bureaucracies that ensnare civilian gun owners but remain easily avoided by terrorists and rogue states.

Here is how the UN justifies its war on guns: *“Inadequate national controls over the access of civilians to small arms and light weapons is a factor in their global, illicit trade. The absence of effective national controls in one State can undermine not only regulatory efforts but also governance in other States if significant numbers of civilian*

*weapons are allowed to flow illegally across borders.” (ISACS03.30).*

*“A programme of weapon registration may be established as the first step towards the physical collection phase. Such programmes can provide both the international community and the local security agencies with an indication of the scale of the problem.” (ISACS05.40)*

Note that this language emphasizes “control” and “regulation,” “collection” not “confiscation.” But reading the details in the proposals it is clear that the goal is civilian disarmament. At best civilian ownership of firearms is viewed

***“A [UN] programme of weapon registration may be established as the first step towards the physical collection phase.”***

as properly and justifiably subject to the arbitrary whim of government officials. And not just in post-conflict third-world countries, either. Those most likely to enact these proposed gun laws are the more advanced countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas. Reading the proposed regulations it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the UN deeply distrusts civilian firearms ownership, perhaps to the point of believing it to be incompatible with world peace. At the same time, the UN manages to ignore the millions of disarmed civilians who are brutalized

by their own governments, such as those in Zimbabwe, Somalia, and China.

In the 1940s when the United Nations was created, the UN embodied the hopes of war-weary peoples that the post-war world could become a better place. Unfortunately, history ravished this dream. Post-colonial politics have turned the UN into a hotbed of initiatives that if implemented would disarm civilian gun owners.

In 1952, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs was charged with reducing the risk of nuclear war; unfortunately, it was hamstrung by the constant conflict between the USA and the USSR. With the end of the Cold War, mission creep intervened to give the UNODA a new focus: small arms and light weapons (SALW). Since 2001, under the rubric of protecting civilians from violence, the UN has deliberately promoted policies that are designed to remove ordinary rifles and handguns from civilians in all regions.

To understand the UN it is necessary to understand the politics of post-colonization. Of the 193 member nations, two thirds are what are euphemistically known as “developing nations.” Fewer than half (about 45%) are full-fledged democracies, i.e., countries that operate under the rule of law and hold honest and open elections. This distribution guarantees that third-world dictatorships hold an unreasonable amount of power

***“Post-colonial politics have turned the UN into a hotbed of initiatives that if implemented would disarm civilian gun owners.”***

in the UN. This is exacerbated by the excessive deference shown to these non-democratic states by the progressive, or socialist, nations of Europe. For example, dictatorships have been chosen to head the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

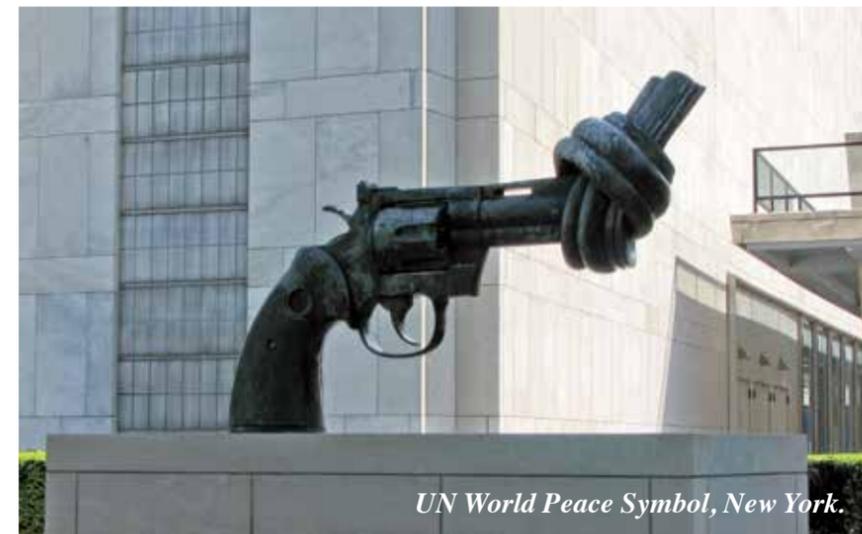
## ISACS

Coordinating Action in Small Arms (CASA) was launched in 1998 by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and charged with directing the efforts in more than 20 other UN bodies that are active in policy development related to small arms and light weapons (SALW). In 2008 CASA launched International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) in order to develop recommendations (called “modules”) on a wide range of issues involving small arms.

ISACS is dominated by anti-gun NGOs so it is unsurprising that ISACS modules are based on the assumption that civilian gun ownership threatens peace and economic development. The result is that the modules include virtually everything on the anti-gun wish list. Civilian access to firearms, if permitted at all, is strictly regulated; surplus munitions must be destroyed; there is even a module that is concerned with gender and firearms. The modules are mutually inconsistent and negatively affect civilians who own firearms. ISACS receives generous funding from a small number of so-called progressive countries, primarily Japan, Norway, Australia, Ireland and Canada.

## The Model Firearms Law

The model law against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition was developed by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime



UN World Peace Symbol, New York.

(UNODC) in order to promote the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It focuses primarily, as its name suggests, on assisting governments in implementing a legislative regime that can control firearms manufacturing of and reduce illegal trafficking in firearms and ammunition.

The model law is exceptionally bureaucratic and focuses, as its name implies, on the manufacturing and the international transfer of firearms. While not directly dealing with civilian firearm ownership, it recommends owner licensing and firearms registration.

## The Arms Trade Treaty

This summer the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will be presented to the UN for a final decision. The ATT is intended to regulate international arms sales, but it poses serious dangers for responsible citizens who own firearms.

The ATT demands that all firearms and ammunition be specially marked. Impossibly, each round is required to have a unique mark. In addition the ATT mandates that countries must keep all firearms records for a minimum of 10 years. The costs involved will be enormous. The most egregious provision in the ATT is the Victim Assistance Fund that is supposed to compensate victims of gun violence.

The ATT proposes to create a new UN agency, the “Implementation Support Unit,” to regulate international firearm

sales. For the first time the UN is to be given the authority to impose taxes on countries to create a fund for “victims of gun violence.”

The drive to pass the ATT is led by the United Kingdom, and is backed by Japan and Norway. Last year, Canada surprised observers. In the past, Canada had been a strong proponent of the ATT, but this summer, the Canadian delegation advocated exempting civilian firearms from the treaty. Unfortunately, the motion was rejected. The UN’s disarmament juggernaut was inexorable.

## Conclusion

Under the Conservative government, Canada is reviewing its support for these UN initiatives. However, Canada continues to support, in principle, the negotiation of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty under UN auspices. This summer could be interesting.

## For more information

Bromund, Ted R. and Steve Groves, “The U.N.’s Arms Trade Treaty: A Dangerous Multilateral Mistake in the Making,” Heritage Foundation Background Paper No. 2309, August 21, 2009, at <http://www.heritage.org/Research/InternationalOrganizations/bg2309.cfm>.

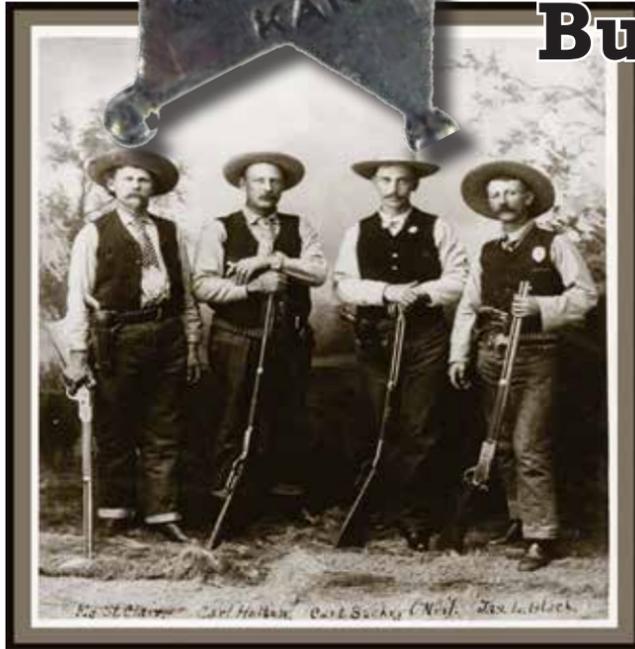
United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms <http://www.un-casa-isacs.org/isacs/Welcome.html>  
United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ArmsTradeTreaty/>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/legal-tools/model-treaties-and-laws.html>



# Western Lawmen

## Bucky O'Neill -Part II



*"There is no week nor day nor hour when tyranny may not enter upon this country, if the people lose their roughness and spirit of defiance"*

—Walt Whitman

In spite of the Santa Fe Railroad executives downplaying the significance of the Diablo Canyon train robbery, a reward of disputed size was posted, and the intrepid Bucky O'Neill immediately set out to bring about the perpetrators' capture. Riding with deputies Ed St. Clair and Jim Black, plus Santa Fe detective Carl Holton, the posse met Barnes and Broadbent on the trail and took their place on the robbers' trail. The desperados ahead had tried every trick in the book to throw off the expected pursuit, from riding along creek bottoms and moving with wild horse herds, to wrapping their hooves with burlap as they zigzagged north into Utah, but still their pursuers remained true.

In the photograph of the four posse-men, we can see that Sheriff O'Neill and his deputies all pack the archetypal Colt single-action revolver on their hips, while the detective has a "modern" double-action Colt 1874 .44 holstered at his side. Everyone holds a toggle-link action Winchester 1873 rifle in the .44WCF handgun cartridge... except for Bucky, who we see grips the barrel of a much improved, John Browning designed Winchester Model 1886, firing a full power rifle load.

It was with this Winchester, that Bucky got things rolling when they finally cornered the Diablo gang at Wahweep Canyon. The bandits seeing they were boxed in, attempted to charge right



*Top Left: The Diablo Canyon Posse, circa 1889. Sheriff Bucky O'Neill, second from the right, is armed with a Model 1886 rifle. The remainder of the posse all carry Winchester Model 1873 rifles. Incidentally, railroad detective Carl Holton on the far left, packs a Colt Model 1878 revolver instead of the Colt Single Action "Peacemakers" that the rest tote*

*Above: A weathered old photo of William Owen "Bucky" O'Neill during Rough Rider training in San Antonio, Texas, prior to shipping out to fight in Cuba. Once they arrived, they discovered they would have to fight on foot.*

through the approaching posse. Smith's white horse went down with O'Neill's first shot, putting its rider out of the fight. Almost immediately thereafter, Bucky's own gelding is hit between the eyes and collapsed underneath him. Soon all belligerents, on both sides, found themselves afoot, causing Halvard and Sterrin to subsequently throw down their guns and put their hands up. Their compadres, Smith and Harvick, weren't quite as ready to call it a day, and sought escape from the posse by leaping down the Cliffside hemming them in. The daring gamble paid off, at least temporarily for the duo, but just several miles later the pair was spied once more by Bucky, who had remained hot on their trail. Spotting the two men laying prostrate and drinking from a water hole, the lawman opted to preempt any possible resistance by sending a round splattering into the rock they lay belly down on. Knowing that the jig was up, the pair finally surrendered and were taken into custody by O'Neill.

At the end of the day, O'Neill's manhunt had been a stellar

success given that he was able to fully corral his quarry without anyone sustaining a serious injury or bullet wound and despite the brief, although heated, spate of gunplay that was involved. Displaying the same greed that made railroads so hated throughout the west, representatives of the Santa Fe line were reluctant to pay the promised reward. Eventually they were forced to make good on their promise and the posse members later split their prize four ways. Adding pettiness to the mix, along with greed, the railroad did refuse to reimburse Sheriff O'Neill for his expenses incurred while on the gang's trail. Their excuse, legitimized by a court of law, was that Bucky had left the county without permission when chasing the Diablo gang all the way into Utah!

The corporations may not have liked him, but the common man voted him into one office after the other. As soon as his term as sheriff was up, O'Neill ran for and was elected unanimously to be the Mayor of Prescott. And disgusted with the traditional political parties, including his once beloved Republicans, he came close to winning a United States Representative seat as a member of the upstart agrarian, egalitarian and libertarian Populist Party.

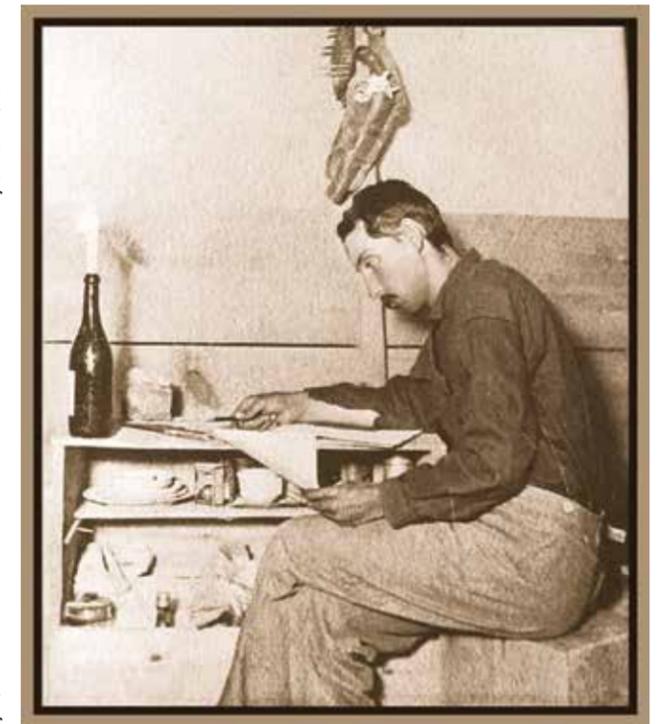
When the Spanish-American War broke out he had been living a quiet and somewhat uneventful life. When Teddy Roosevelt's regiment was being formed, nearly 300 cowboys, miners, citizens and politicians joined with him and they rode to San Antonio, Texas and were received with open arms. This group became Troop A, 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry (Rough Riders).

In April of 1898, the United States declared war on Spain over numerous issues, including their ownership of Cuba located just off the coast of Florida. An explosion on the U.S. warship Maine was blamed on sabotage, though it was later determined to have been an accidental coal-gas explosion when the hull was found to have been blown outwards and not inwards, as would be the case with a mine. "Remember the Maine" nonetheless became the motto that aroused the American citizenry to rally behind an invasion of the island.

With a new war looming large, many new volunteer companies were being formed. O'Neill, ever the patriot, was one of the very first to answer the call put out by famed hunter, outdoorsman and politician, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt, who would later win the White House, had a deep and abiding love and respect for the West and the men who populated it. Once he had made the decision

*"Nothing endures but personal qualities."*

—Walt Whitman



*Bucky O'Neill Colt 1878 - O'Neill loved history and historical ephemera but bought the modern in available firearms, purchasing the double-action Colt Model 1878 .44 WCF (seen hanging here on his wall) in the very first year of its introduction.*

to raise his own volunteer company, he knew he wanted to do it right. His company would be a force of volunteers made up of the kinds of resourceful and rough-hewn Westerners and able horsemen that he so respected; cowboys and trackers, sharp shooters and lawmen. Interestingly, Roosevelt's call was to also attract the lawbreakers; Western outlaws anxious for a way to avoid stateside authorities, while acting on their patriotic instincts and eagerness for adventure.



The first volunteer mustered into the army for the war with Spain was the then 39 year-old William Owens O'Neill. Enlisting as a lowly private, he was quickly promoted to the rank of captain and assigned to the Rough Riders' "A" Troop. In a strange twist of fate, promoted right along with him to serve as one of his sergeants was the same robber, Bill Sterrin that he'd exchanged shots with in Utah. Free after nine years in the state penitentiary and

*San Juan Hill trenches - An un-staged photograph of American Rough Rider volunteers in trenches hastily dug for their protection. It was, while standing above a similar depression encouraging his men, that O'Neill defied the machine gun and Mauser bullets whizzing all around him.*



*San Juan Blockhouse - American troops atop the hill next to San Juan Hill, overlooking the fortified Spanish blockhouse they had fought and died to capture.*

having enlisted under an assumed name, Sterrin apparently bore his new commander no ill-will and was reported to have been proud to serve under the onetime lawdog who ran him to ground.

We get a glimpse of the prevailing cavalier attitude of the Rough Riders in the dinner toast made on the boat trip over, as all in the galley raised their wine glasses high: "May the war last long enough for every officer to be either be killed, wounded or promoted!"

When the volunteers got to Cuba, they were disappointed to hear that there had been no transportation provided for their prized horses and that they would be fighting on foot, but they remained no less anxious for action and a chance at glory. One of their objectives was to silence a fortified bunker positioned near, but not on, San Juan Hill. Under the best of circumstances a tough mission and one that would require a long climb over an extremely exposed slope through what was later called a "blizzard" of hot steel and lead.

Lucky for them, the Rough Riders were better equipped than most, in terms of small arms. Roosevelt had bought many of them state-of-the-art Model 1895 Winchesters out of his own pocket. The Model 1895 was another Browning designed lever-action repeating rifle that featured a novel box magazine, instead of traditional under-barrel tubular magazines seen on previous designs. This innovation allowed American troops to safely field ballistically superior pointed or spitzer bullets. And unlike the Buffalo Soldiers, who were issued older single-shot trapdoor Springfields, firing black powder cartridges, the 1895 Winchesters and Norwegian-made, bolt-action Krag-Jorgensen rifles both fired the smokeless .30 U.S. (.30/40 Krag) round. The billowing puffs of white smoke from the regular army units' Springfields made them easy targets for the Spaniards with their modern Mauser rifles; not so the Rough Riders, who carried rifles that were near equals of the modern Mauser design. Machine gunners on both sides, however, also joined the fray, with their guns spitting out seemingly endless torrents of lead. The unceasing buzz and rattle of the machine guns added to the terror and tumult of the battlefield, as the angry chunks of hot metal they vomited, ripped through flesh on both sides, thinning the cowboy's ranks, as well as those of their white-suited Hispanic enemy.

Temporarily hunkered down in a slight depression, Captain O'Neill paced back and forth before his men, defying death to demonstrate an example of bravery worthy of following; alternately shouting

encouragement and Whitman quotes to what must have been his incredulous, as well as wholly impressed troop of bronc-tamers and Indian fighters. Enduring the unceasing heat and humidity of Cuba in July, some Rough Riders found themselves weakened and shaking from Malaria, most likely contracted from the bite of one of the island's countless swarms of mosquitoes. Scared, dirty, hot and sick, O'Neill's men remained resolute, choosing to believe in their captain, if not the sanity of their greater political "cause." As survivors would attest, all of his men appeared to have unquestioning faith in, and respect for, the nerve regularly displayed by their commander.

"Get down, Captain, or you'll be killed for sure!" a concerned Sterrin was heard to implore O'Neill more than once.

O'Neill took his cigarette out of his mouth, as Roosevelt would later recount, "and blowing out a cloud of smoke he laughed and said, 'Sergeant, the Spanish bullet isn't moulded that will kill me.' A little later... as he turned on his heel, a Spanish bullet struck him in the mouth and came out at the back of his head, missing his teeth; so that even before he fell, his wild and gallant soul had gone out into the darkness."

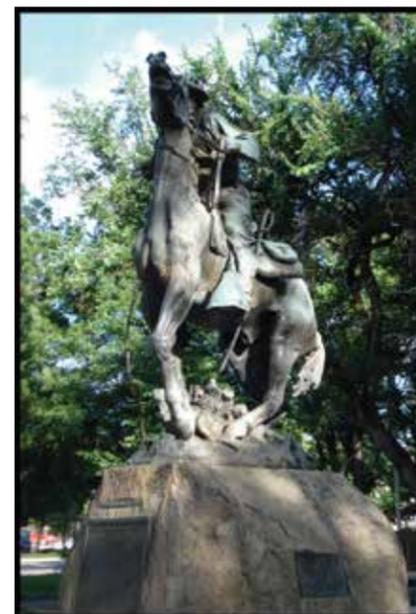
**"O'Neill is the most many-sided man Arizona has produced."**

**-William McLeod Raine**

Indeed, Bucky was anything but one dimensional. He bent his curious mind to numerous studies including geology and history, and turned his inherent drive to learn toward one interest or project after another. Quite often such pursuits had a strong foundation in humanitarianism, more so than any desire to seek personal riches for fortune's sake alone. He spent much of his time following his stint as sheriff, exploring and prospecting in the luminous bowels of the Grand Canyon, and as a result became passionate about its promotion as a tourist attraction, as well as the need for conservation measures to be put in place protect and preserve its beauty and grandeur for future generations.

From the time of the outlaws' capture in '89 until his death, O'Neill has been held up by the promoters of a growing Arizona as an example of entrepreneurship, a business minded journalist, miner, investor, sheriff, judge and soldier. It is thus that he is portrayed in a life-sized 1907 statue mounted on a pedestal in front of the Yavapai courthouse, on official county patches, and a plaque in Washington's Arlington Cemetery, as well as on various tourist brochures drawing visitors to this day. It is somewhat ironic. Corporate Arizona may love him now, but the fact is that Bucky was elected to multiple public offices despite the best efforts of the region's power brokers and major corporations of the day to stop him. While he invested money in many industries, including an ambitious water canal project, his vision for the region involved an economy based not on the polluting industries he'd witnessed in the East but non-typically on farming, crafts, retirement spas, and natural health resorts that he reasoned could bring in income without debasing area cultures and lifestyles.

Yes, he was a courageous fighter and flamboyant gambler, but he was also exceedingly bashful around strangers, terrified of public speaking, and tender in heart. While rock steady in a shootout, he was reported to have embarrassingly fainted while witnessing a public hanging, explaining later that he couldn't bear to see a



*Left: The statue of Bucky O'Neill, Rough Rider, as it looks today in Prescott, Arizona.*

*Above: A line on Bucky O'Neill's grave stone reads "Who would not die for a new star on the flag." What he really said, however, was "Who wouldn't gamble for a star?"... meaning that while he might have enlisted as a private, he planned to earn himself a generalship.*

man killed "without giving him a chance to fight for his life." Then, during the disembarking of the Rough Riders in the bay at Daiquiri on June 22, 1898, two Negro Buffalo Soldiers were seen to fall overboard and sink. Of all the men in the boat, it was only Bucky who defied the racial presuppositions of the day to leap in, with clothes and sword still on, in an unsuccessful bid to save them.

As caring a man as he was, O'Neill was

equally unquenchable and untiring, a force of nature ready and excited for any seemingly worthwhile challenge. In his private and public life, he invariably defended the interests of the common folk against the power hungry "corporados" and stood tall for the oppressed, unmindful of the odds stacked against him. In this way, he remained an incurable gambler, bucking the political system and many

cultural norms of the day, betting his very life on what he believed to be right.

There's a tomb in Section 1 of Arlington National Cemetery inscribed with a quote attributed to O'Neill: "Who would not die for a new star on the flag." This is an intentional alteration of a line spoken by O'Neill, in reply to a friend's remonstrations over his willingness to sign up with Roosevelt as a private: "Who wouldn't gamble for a star?" Business interests and economic boosters profess that he was referring to his beloved Arizona Territory winning the right to enter the Union as a state, but those who heard his remark at the time felt sure he was referring to winning himself a General's rank. Given the aforementioned troop toast, it was most likely a promotion that O'Neill was bucking for.

Either way, it was just like Bucky to bet first and foremost on himself, whether facing down robbers or standing up to legitimized robber-barons, attempting difficult daily tasks or trying to pull off the seemingly impossible. And such attitudes as his have emboldened at least a portion of every subsequent generation, helping in turn to form and further what I know to be the most definitive and admirable qualities of the iconic western character.

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



# LEGAL CORNER

by Grayson Penney

## Important Changes to the Canadian Firearms Program

There has been much confusion resulting from the entry into force of the Conservative's long-awaited *Ending the Long-Gun Registry Act*, better known as Bill C-19. While the legal requirement to hold a registration certificate for a non-restricted long-gun has ended, owners are still legally required to possess a firearms licence.

Residents of Quebec, however, are STILL REQUIRED to register their firearms and the onus remains on Quebec gun owners to comply with this requirement. NFA is closely monitoring the situation and is actively exploring the legal options available to challenge this unfair and unnecessary development.

**With that in mind, all NFA members and law-abiding gun owners, please be advised of the following:**

### Changes to the Canadian Firearms Program -

On April 5, 2012, Bill C-19, *Ending the Long-Gun Registry Act*, came into effect. The key changes are as follows:

- Removal of the requirement to register non-restricted firearms
- Destruction of the existing non-restricted firearms registration records
- Allowing the transferor of a non-restricted firearm to obtain confirmation of a transferee's firearms acquisition licence prior to the transfer being finalized

*Until further notice, due to a Court Order issued by the Quebec Superior Court, residents of Quebec are still required to register non-restricted firearms with the RCMP Canadian Firearms Program.*

It is important to note that the new law **does not change the requirement for all individuals to hold a licence in order to possess a firearm.** The licensing, safety training and safe storage requirements for anyone who uses or owns a firearm continue to be in force.

The legislation also **does not impact registration requirements for restricted or prohibited firearms.**

### LICENCE FEE WAIVER ENDS

In a surprise move, the federal government also recently announced that the popular fee waiver for firearms licensing, introduced while they were still in minority government position, is ending.

In a recent media release, the NFA castigated the federal government, stating that charging law-abiding gun owners a fee in order to avoid a criminal charge is simply wrong. It is the position of the NFA that licensing remains one of the

most egregious aspects of Canada's firearms program.

Since the Liberal legislation of 1995, it has been illegal to own firearms in Canada without also possessing the appropriate government-issued firearms licence, a situation which has made many non-complying Canadians into criminals for what is ostensibly a paperwork offence.

Gun owners are cautioned to keep in mind that the end of the long-gun registry in no way mitigates the legal requirement to possess a valid firearms licence. (PAL or POL).

As such, please be advised of the following:

### Changes to firearms licence fee waiver -

**Restricted and prohibited licence holders required to pay prescribed fee as of September 18, 2012.**

The Government of Canada has announced changes to the firearms licence fee waiver.

### Licences with Restricted/Prohibited Privileges:

A fee waiver for renewal of Possession Only Licences (POL) and Possession and Acquisition Licences (PAL) with **restricted/prohibited** firearm privileges is in effect until **September 17, 2012.**

Individuals who renew their restricted or prohibited class POL or PAL on or after **September 18, 2012**, will be required to pay the renewal fee. Individuals who add restricted and/or prohibited privileges to their licence on or after that date will also be required to pay the fee.

### Licences with Non-Restricted Privileges ONLY:

A fee waiver, applicable to licences with non-restricted firearm privileges only, is in effect until May 16, 2013. This waiver applies to:

- individuals renewing their Possession Only Licence (POL) or Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL),
- individuals upgrading their POL to a PAL,
- individuals obtaining a new POL or PAL after their previous one expired, or
- minors renewing their Minor's Licence.

**For more information, contact the Canadian Firearms Program at 1-800-731-4000.**



## PHOTO CONTEST!!

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

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

**PRIZES: 1st \$100 2nd \$50 3rd \$50 & all three winners will receive cool NFA "SWAG" bags containing a selection of NFA merchandise!**



# Responsibility

# THE LAST WORD...

By Sean Penney

I'm a decent poker player. That's thanks mostly to my dad, who both taught me how to play the game properly when I was around 9 or 10. Before that I was regulated to watching my dad, his brothers and my older cousin's play from the sidelines. The game was always kept friendly, but bragging rights were hotly contested, especially each fall when moose hunting season rolled around and the whole clan took to the woods.

It didn't matter if that particular hunt saw us staying in a snug hunting cabin or old converted bus camper, or even the roughest sort of camp built from sawed lumber and tarps; the after dinner poker game was the social focal point of our group. After supper, once the guns and ammo were all packed away and the strong hunting camp coffee poured, the cards appeared.

When I got older, I learned to appreciate the benefits of saying "yes," when asked by my uncle if I'd like to "Irish-up" my coffee. That man appreciated fine whiskey and I don't think anything less than an 18-year-old Kilbeggan ever found its way into my cup. God bless him!

But we also learned some important lessons around that rickety card table over the years, not just how to appreciate fine Irish whiskey. One of the important ones was responsibility. Win, lose or draw, if playing, we were expected to take responsibility for our actions. We were expected to accept losing and winning with equal grace, although good-natured ribbing was permitted, and we always paid our debts.

Looking back, I now realize that being permitted to join the game marked a rite of passage for me and my brother on our journey to manhood. I believe I was thirteen the first moose camp I was allowed to "ante up." I remember because I learned that trip not to put as much faith in the winning power of a "full boat," aces over tens, when playing heads up against my old man. It cost me \$25 and I had to assume his dishwashing

responsibilities for the remainder of our time in camp. My grin may have been a little weak after losing the hard-earned cash saved from my paper route, but it never even occurred to me to gripe or complain about the loss. It was my decision to play, just as was to go "all-in" without having a better read on the table.

Lesson learned. Poker tips aside, around that table, we didn't just trade tall tales and tell lies about the one that got away. Subjects of debate ranged widely, from politics and history, to how to roof a house, shoe a horse, set a cod trap or even build a trap skiff with nothing more than an axe and handsaw. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was the beneficiary of all the wisdom and knowledge the men of my family had to offer. I became a better man and a more well-rounded person because of it.

I also learned the origins of the term "passing the buck," and that of the motto made famous by President Harry S. Truman, "the buck stops here." The latter, not surprisingly, derived from the original expression, which is said to have originated from the game of poker as it was played on the American frontier. Players often kept track of whose deal it was by placing a knife in front of the dealer as a marker. Quite often, such markers had a hilt carved out of deer antler or "buckhorn." If a player wished to decline his responsibility or turn as dealer, he passed the knife to the next player in line. Before long this practice became known as "passing the buck."

President Truman, rather than passing the buck, kept a handmade sign on his desk simply stating that "The buck stops here!" - referring to the fact that as president, he didn't have the luxury of passing responsibility for his decisions on to others. The job required that he make the hard decisions and accept responsibility for the consequences thereafter.

Unfortunately, that sentiment is an increasingly alien

concept in our politically correct "modern" world. Unlike myself, who had the benefit of a non-PC home, certain values and beliefs were instilled in me as I grew up that simply aren't being passed on to the vast majority of kids today. Included in these were respect for myself and others, to be generous and kind, to stand up for myself and those unable to do so, and to take responsibility for my actions. "Passing the buck" was never an option put on the table.

Funny isn't it how time and again it seems that those of us who grew up hunting and shooting are intimately familiar with that particular concept. We live our lives by it and we do our utmost to instill those same values into our kids and grandkids. Plain and simple, kids who grow up hunting and fishing, don't grow up to knock over liquor stores or rob little old ladies, and they don't become bullies.

Nowhere was this simple truth made more self-evident, than this past week as my family and I watched in horror the now infamous video of a gang of teenage school bus bullies verbally abusing an elderly bus monitor in Greece, New York. The teens involved took obvious pleasure from tormenting a woman whose job it was to protect and ensure their safety.

The lack of respect and empathy

displayed by those teens disgusted me. To my mind, here was the end product of the "time-out, everyone gets a ribbon" generation; where "the buck is passed" and everyone and everything but the child and the parent are responsible for the absolutely repellant human beings they have become. I was equally disappointed too, that no others spoke up or attempted to stop the attacks.

Is our society raising a new generation of bullies and cowards? I can only hope that the public outrage over this despicable behaviour will force the parents of these children to finally recognize their failures and to take proactive measures aimed at salvaging their

progeny. No matter how busy we become or how hectic life is, we cannot continue to be absentee role models and parents or depend on schools to "co-parent" for us. Whether it means being home for dinner every night, helping out with homework, coaching little league, or teaching your kid to hunt & fish, or even the intricacies of seven-card stud poker, we have to step-up before it is too late. The responsibility lies with each of us as role models, parents and guardians to put our kids on the correct path to adulthood. Let us all make sure we do not fail in this most important of responsibilities. And that is the last word...



Hand forged "buck-handled" skinning knife of a pattern appropriate to the period by master knife-maker Matthew Lesniewski. Check out his website: <http://www.mlknives.com/> Photo: Matthew Lesniewski.



Travel Mug



Crest Lapel Pin



Knife w/ carry pouch



Kelly Green

Sand

Forest Green

# MERCHANDISE Order Form



Belt Buckle



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T-Shirts.....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Black  Sand  Kelly Green  Forest Green  
 Small  Medium  Large  XL  2XL  3XL

Tote Bag .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Red  Dark Grey  Blue

Stainless Steel Travel Mug.....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Silver Belt Buckle .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Knife with Carry Pouch.....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pen.....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Large Crest Lapel Pin .....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Embroidered Patch.....Qty. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling: Up to \$20.00 - \$5.00  
Over \$20.00 - \$10.00

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ P.C.: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque or Money Order enclosed  Visa/Mastercard/AMEX

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: National Firearms Association  
Box 49090, Edmonton AB T6E 6H4

Fax To: 780-439-4091 \* Prices subject to change without notice



Canvas - Black



Canvas - Hunter Orange



Canvas - Camouflage



Canvas - Clay



Oilskin - Brown



Leather - Green



Leather - Black



Tote Bag - Blue



Tote Bag - Dark Gray



Tote Bag - Red

**SOLD OUT**