

CANADIAN

# FIREARMS JOURNAL

MARCH/APRIL 2018

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March/April 2018



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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# On the Cover

2018 SHOT Show

*CFJ* writer Lowell Strauss grabbed this photo at the Thundershot booth during the 2018 SHOT Show in Las Vegas. As you can tell by the prominent maple leaves, this is a Canadian company (Gryphon Energetics) marketing to the world. They claim their reactive target is the most powerful one available and were showing some impressive results created by a third-party researcher to substantiate their claims. They even make a product that works with rimfires.



## Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



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NATIONAL  
FIREARMS  
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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## SHOT Show & More

**M**yself and several other *CFJ* writers are back from the 2018 SHOT (Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade) Show in Las Vegas and frantically trying to get our reports to you in time for our printing deadline. This was the 40th anniversary of the show, and it was as large and well attended as ever. It remains the largest trade show of its type in the world, so it leaves a big footprint on the industry and on the city of Vegas.

As expected, segments of social media went crazy about how insensitive it was to have a "gun show" in Las Vegas after the mass shooting that occurred there in October of last year. But these people never miss an opportunity to dance on the graves of victims and they didn't miss this one. I did notice the show's presence was toned down, in that there were no "Welcome SHOT Show Attendees" signs at the airport this year. And the gun-themed advertisements

common on cabs and buses were also missing. I didn't see any bump-fire stocks on display at the show either, but then again, I wasn't looking for them.

What I was looking for was Canadians, and there was no shortage of them, on both sides of the booths. By my count, there were more Canadian booths than ever. And that tells me we have some great innovators who are making a significant mark in the firearms industry. I found Canadian entrepreneurs displaying rifle chassis systems, exploding targets, game cameras, flashlights, rifle actions, camouflage clothing, game-harvesting equipment, distribution services, triggers, chronographs, precision rifles, gun parts, bullets and more. I also encountered more non-Canadian firms than ever, who were looking for ways to market their products into Canada. It's all encouraging news for gun owners in this country.

In the following pages, you'll find reports on what's new and interesting for Canadian hunters and shooters. But these are just first looks, and you can expect to see in-depth reviews on many of these items in the coming year. The shooting sports are so broad that it's difficult to cover all the segments of it, but we're giving it a try here. If there is something in particular you'd like to see us review, please drop me an e-mail and we'll work at fitting it into the schedule.

Of course, you'll find all the usual political commentary here, as well. We'll have much more once the Liberals drop their promised firearm legislation on us. The fact it keeps getting delayed suggests they are nervous about what it contains. I think they've come to realize that Canada's firearm owners have long memories and will hold them to account for bad legislation. Whenever it happens, we'll keep you informed. ♦





# President's MESSAGE

Sheldon Clare

## Accomplishments Leading To The Next Election

**F**irst, I want to thank you very much for responding so generously to our recent request for support. Your donations and promotion of NFA membership will be a big help in allowing us to carry the fight for our rights forward. Court cases, lobbying and advocacy all cost time and money – your support makes it all possible. And it's not just about firearms, we have also provided significant expertise in having the federal *Explosives Acts* modified to better serve the rights of firearms owners who handload and store large quantities of ammunition for their personal use.

Second, Mr. Trudeau's plans for more gun control last December were delayed because you contacted your MPs and told them no more bad laws. The rural Liberals are nervous about the prospect of more gun control affecting their electability in the next election, and you did that. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the next federal election will be held Oct. 21, 2019. That, my friends, is just over a year away, during which time we need to get some work done. What we need to do is to get involved with local political party Electoral District Associations (EDA), and make sure the candidates, whether incumbent or new and regardless of party affiliation, get the message on gun rights. This is the main job of every NFA member moving forward to Election 2019.

We cannot be complacent in this effort. Even those who should be expected to support firearms rights need to know that the NFA is present in their riding association. We have high expectations that the opposition has learned from the last election that voters from the firearms community cannot be taken for granted. We have specific goals and we will not be ignored or pacified. Please keep up the pressure. It makes a huge difference.

While the current administration in the US has been a net gain for firearms owners on the international front, the UN's civil disarmament agenda continues. Ammunition is increasingly under scrutiny on the international scene, and our vigilance there is critical. Our efforts at the UN are making a difference in educating the global community that ordinary people

are perfectly justified in owning firearms and ammunition for many purposes. If we weren't there, the only message that would be heard is that of the anti-gun crusaders. Being proactive there and in Ottawa is serving our cause well.

Some out there believe that it is sufficient to do the government's job and promote the existing firearms control regime by educating the public about the rules. That is simply the wrong approach. Our goal is to dismantle the wasteful, inefficient and ineffective federal firearms control program. No matter how well intentioned, promoting licensing and other gun control nonsense merely serves our opponents' interests and damages the firearms community.

We are continuing our domestic actions in the courts by helping people through the tortuous Canadian firearms control system, asserting our rights by supporting selected court actions, and especially by challenging foolish nonsense such as provincial registration systems. Our Quebec Challenge is a classic NFA effort to fight for the rights of Canadians at a macro level. The NFA is doing the heavy lifting for the Canadian firearms community. As recorded on our website and presented on our social media, some of our major accomplishments over the past 36 months include:

Court challenges to the Quebec provincial gun registry  
<https://nfa.ca/nfa-appeals-court-decision-on-quebec-firearms-registry/>

NFA attends U.N. Arms Trade Treaty meeting to report on Canadian government goals  
<https://nfa.ca/canadian-un-official/>

NFA achieves court victory for conditions placed on gun licenses  
<https://nfa.ca/the-nfa-achieves-an-important-court-victory-for-canadian-gun-owners/>

Support for the High River flood inquiry  
<https://nfa.ca/media-release-poll-shows-half-of-high-river-residents-want-judicial-inquiry/>

The NFA achieves Non-Government Organization status with the United Nations  
<https://nfa.ca/nfa-achieves-ecosoc-special-consultative-status-with-the-un/>

<https://nfa.ca/teo-sanchez-and-matthew-hudec-join-team-nfa/>

The NFA has submitted petitions to parliament on behalf of gun owners  
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<https://nfa.ca/supreme-court-of-canada-rules-that-air-guns-are-firearms/>

The NFA sponsors Canada's National Pistol Team  
<https://nfa.ca/nfa-sponsors-national-pistol-team/>

The NFA offers interpretation of pending firearms law and analysis of value  
<https://nfa.ca/firearms-law-reform-proposals-welcome-but-offer-no-lasting-solutions/>

The NFA advocates on behalf of shooters and gun clubs  
<https://nfa.ca/nfa-protects-quebec-range-users-from-excessive-rules/>

The NFA represents and speaks on behalf of gun owners to all political parties  
<https://nfa.ca/nfa-strong-at-cpc-convention/>

The NFA publishes Canada's premier firearms magazine  
<https://nfa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CFJ-MAY-JUNE-2017-DIGITAL.pdf>

As you can see, we are not sitting idle. We are actually doing significant work to protect and advocate for our rights. Please encourage others to join the NFA so that they too can be part of the winning team. 

# Message du président

Sheldon Clare

## Ce que nous avons accompli en prévision des prochaines élections

**E**n premier lieu je tiens à vous remercier chaleureusement pour vos contributions généreuses suite à notre campagne de financement. Vos dons et votre promotion de l'ACAF pour agrandir notre Association nous aiderons beaucoup dans la lutte pour continuer de protéger nos droits. Les poursuites et le lobbying coutent du temps et de l'argent, grâce à vous nous pourrons continuer. Et ce n'est pas seulement en matière d'armes à feu - nous avons fournis une quantité significative d'expertises pour réussir à faire modifier la Loi sur les explosifs. Ceci a protégé les tireurs qui rechargeant leurs munitions et qui entreposent une grande quantité de munitions pour leur usage personnel.

Deuxièmement, malgré le fait que M. Trudeau voulait instaurer de nouvelles lois sur le contrôle des armes à feu en décembre, vous avez réussi à retarder cela en contactant vos députés leur demandant de ne pas nous infliger d'autres mauvaises lois. Les Libéraux des régions rurales sont nerveux car une augmentation du contrôle des armes pourra affecter leurs chances de réélection - c'est grâce à vous ça! Les élections Fédérales devraient avoir lieu le 21 octobre 2019 à moins qu'il n'y aient des circonstances imprévues. Ça mes amis, c'est dans seulement un peu plus d'un an et nous avons du travail à faire. Nous devons nous impliquer dans notre comité de circonscription électorale et nous assurer que le candidat, qu'il soit ancien ou nouveau, peu importe de quel Parti, comprenne l'enjeu des droits envers les armes à feu. Ceci est le travail principal de tous les membres de l'ACAF d'ici à l'élection de 2019.

Nous ne pouvons pas nous asseoir sur nos lauriers. Même les députés favorables à notre cause doivent savoir que l'ACAF est bien présente dans leur comité de circonscription. Nous nous attendons que l'opposition ait appris lors de la dernière élection que la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu ne peut pas être prise pour acquis. Nos buts sont bien précis et ne peuvent pas être ignorés. SVP maintenez la pression - cela fonctionne.

Quoique l'administration américaine actuelle aide les propriétaires d'armes à feu

sur le plan international, l'ONU continu quand même son programme de désarmement civil. Les munitions sont de plus en plus dans leur mire et notre vigilance à ce sujet doit être sans faille. Grâce à notre présence devant l'ONU nous réussissons à démontrer à la communauté internationale que des gens bien ordinaires sont parfaitement justifiés de posséder des armes et munitions à des fins légitimes. Si nous n'étions pas là, le seul message qui y serait véhiculé c'est celui des militants anti-armes. Prendre ces initiatives là-bas et à Ottawa aident notre cause.

Ceux qui croient que de faire le travail du Gouvernement en faisant la promotion et l'éducation à propos du régime actuel du contrôle des armes se trompent. Notre objectif est plutôt de démanteler le programme Fédéral de contrôle des armes qui depuis sa création n'a fait preuve que de gaspillage et d'inefficacité. Peu importe les bonnes intentions, promouvoir le système de permis et autres imbécilités de contrôle des armes aide seulement nos adversaires et fait du mal à notre communauté.

Nous continuons nos poursuites devant les tribunaux Canadiens pour aider les gens à se retrouver dans le système tortueux des lois sur le contrôle des armes et pour protéger nos droits par des poursuites spécifiques, en particulier en nous attaquant aux mesures ridicules et insensées telles que les systèmes d'enregistrements provinciaux. Notre poursuite contre le Gouvernement du Québec en est un exemple. Elle démontre l'implication de l'ACAF pour protéger les droits de tous les Canadiens. L'ACAF est l'association qui fait les plus grands efforts de lobbying pour notre communauté. Les voici, tels que documentés sur notre site web et présentés sur nos médias sociaux. Les réussites majeures suivantes se sont réalisées depuis les 36 derniers mois:

Court challenges to the Quebec provincial gun registry  
<https://nfa.ca/fr/nfa-appeals-court-decision-on-quebec-firearms-registry/>

NFA attends U.N. Arms Trade Treaty meeting to report on Canadian government goals  
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The NFA represents and speaks on behalf of gun owners to all political parties

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Comme vous pouvez le constater nous ne sommes pas oisifs. Nous faisons du travail concret pour promouvoir notre cause et protéger nos droits. SVP encouragez d'autres personnes à joindre nos rangs pour qu'ils puissent eux aussi faire parti de l'équipe gagnante. 



# Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

**A**t time of writing, we are still waiting for the threatened Liberal gun control promises to be imposed. These may take the form of an increased punitive regulatory and enforcement environment for firearms owners and businesses, with increased regulation and red tape, or they may be worse. One thing is certain: none of the Liberal promises on guns will have any effect on real criminals.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. While the idea of a national universal firearms registration system, such as we saw between 2002 and 2012, may currently be moribund, Canadians can learn some sobering lessons from the fascination with firearms registration and regulation by bureaucrats and politicians. It seems with the coming of every new generation, we must relearn the hard truths that were learned by previous generations of Canadians through the sacrifice of rights, freedoms and property.

The Canadian government has periodically demanded re-registration of handguns in the past, as registries have always been incomplete, riddled with errors and of dubious value. Few Canadians understood how they worked and few understood the requirements for holding a registration for a restricted firearm. Not to mention they have always been laughed at by the criminal element.

Historically, re-registration was to have taken place every five years, but was abandoned when no practical way of doing so was developed and because law enforcement resources were required in far more important areas. Over the years, many handguns and restricted firearms have been registered with incorrect information. Owners moved, died or immigrated to other countries without informing the registry, and many handguns that became part of estates through the deaths of their owners simply disappeared into the hands of heirs without the required transfer process. Thousands of guns simply disappeared. The old RCMP restricted firearm registry was an unmitigated disaster that was not used for any practical purposes of public safety.

The Progressive Conservative government's Bill C-17 in 1991 created new classes of restricted and prohibited firearms, requiring their registration in order for owners to lawfully possess them. The majority of firearms subject to these new registration requirements were never registered. Then, in 1995, before these registration requirements were fully implemented, another piece of draconian gun control legislation was imposed by the Liberal government: the infamous Bill C-68, with its mandatory licensing and universal registration.

As part of Bill C-68, the federal government demanded that all previously registered restricted and prohibited firearms be re-registered concurrently with all non-restricted firearms in the new universal firearms registry. This was the firearms control bureaucracy's chance not only to register every rifle and shotgun in Canada, but to also re-register every restricted and prohibited firearm in a "state-of-the-art" computer database that would clean up the previously existing mess.

Many Canadians already holding registrations did not understand this requirement. Why would you need to re-register a gun that was already registered? That wasn't logical. Logic had nothing to do with it. The politics of gun control did. Many Canadians completely misunderstood or missed altogether the legislative demands of government, and those governments made little effort to make plain-language explanations of their demands.

Public information campaigns were sparse and limited, and why not? These were reverse onus laws. The onus was on Canadians to traverse these deliberately torturous and confusing laws, not for government and bureaucracy to make it easy for them. Why did government and bureaucracy do this? They knew that with reverse onus, and guilty-until-proven-innocent gun control laws, they had Canadians hostage to their agendas.

In early 2016, the city of Surrey, BC, was undergoing a gang violence crisis, so city leaders demanded that the RCMP, the

law enforcement agency in Surrey, do something about it.

RCMP brass made a case to Surrey council that scofflaws who had failed to re-register their handguns 20 years ago were still in possession of them, and that they were unlawfully transferring them to the criminal element. Never mind the fact that they still had records of these old registrations.

This begs the question, when is a registration not a registration? Apparently when the government says it isn't. Some had allowed their firearms licenses to expire, or had never applied for one. All are made up offences manufactured by gun control legislation. Using the sketchy information from the old RCMP registration system, door-to-door searches were affected trying to locate these firearms and their owners. Naturally, in the ensuing 20 years, many had moved or died. But some had not and were faced with National Weapons Enforcement Support Teams (NWEST) and Emergency Response Teams (ERT) on their doorsteps demanding to know where a certain firearm was. Owners were intimidated, guns were confiscated, and for what? For paperwork crimes and sins of omission. Confusion over the convoluted and offensive federal legislative gun control assaults against Canadians. That Canadians who complied with the laws of the day can be so flagrantly scapegoated for the purposes of politicians is unforgivable. Recent decisions by the firearms program prohibiting Ruger 10/22 magazines that turned thousands of Canadians into criminals overnight are unforgivable.

Rather than an instrument of public safety, the firearms control system is a bizarre, passive aggressive and ideological kleptocracy. How can federal law and the Criminal Code of Canada be respected the way it was intended, when it is so clear that those legislating and interpreting law have so little regard for the rights and property of Canadians. It can't, and it isn't. This situation will not improve when the Liberal government makes it's move against guns. That is the real tragedy.

# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Anti-gun Sentiment Driven By Emotion



Anti-gun protesters gather in Connecticut.

**Y**es, we run into these folks every so often. Average, hardworking Canadians who drink the proverbial leftist Kool Aid as it pertains to the evils of law-abiding firearms ownership. And it can have the effect of banging one's head against the archetypal wall when trying to reason with them. For decades, these individuals have been thoroughly brainwashed by the mantra emanating from left-leaning governments, the media, Hollywood, public education systems and academia. It would appear that attempting to talk some sense into these antis is a waste of time.

Those of us who are on the front lines of the gun rights movement frequently become frustrated with the nonsensical rhetoric spouted by anti-gunners – and rightly so. But there is an important

fact we must not overlook: outside of groups such as the Coalition for Gun Control, many in our society who fear and loathe firearms – especially those in the hands of their fellow law-abiding Canadians – are not driven by any particular agenda, but purely by emotion.

You'll find this whenever trying to debate gun rights with a person who has been indoctrinated to believe firearms in the hands of those other than government agents are something that needs to be abolished. I see it regularly at family get-togethers and parties where I am outnumbered by virtue of my political views regarding the benefits of private firearms ownership. A few months ago, I had a conversation with a gentleman who stated unequivocally that while he

wasn't completely against private firearms ownership, scary "black guns" (namely the AR-15) have no place in a civilized society. He then went on to explain how such an "assault rifle" can fire 60 rounds per minute. Again, the views of these individuals have been thoroughly shaped by the antigun messages (also known as lies) they receive from mainstream media outlets.

But when you ask these folks why they despise civilian firearms ownership, more often than not, they are unable to give constructive, concrete reasons why people should not be allowed to own guns. When people are highly emotional, they have trouble thinking clearly. The vast majority of bad gun control legislation passed in Canada, the US, Australia and the United Kingdom over the past four decades has not been based on scientific facts, but rather the frenzied emotions that have occurred following tragic mass shootings.

But the silver lining in all this craziness is the reality that our message is slowly breaking through the liberal madness that has clouded private firearms ownership since the 1970s. Gun ownership is only increasing – dare I say exponentially – in Canada, just as it is in the US, Australia and other nations. Tens of thousands of current firearms owners were once antis, but something as simple as a trip to a shooting range converted them. This means many of those people suffering from an unfounded emotional fear of firearms can be cured. For those who can't, we needn't waste further time and energy on them.

It's truly sad, but there are those people in Canada who believe that more government control is the answer to all of society's ills. Perhaps these people should read a history book, more specifically one about the 20th century's most ruthless dictators (Hitler, Stalin and Mao) and then accept an invitation from a firearm-owning friend to spend an afternoon at the range. ♦



# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## Violent Crime, Guns & Gun Owners



**Victims of violent crime  
are often the same  
people committing the  
crimes, or people who  
associate with them.**

Our current firearms law is a strange mix of assumptions and intents. The official rational, that it "provides support to law enforcement, and promotes firearms safety," is pursued with administrative micro-management of every aspect of gun ownership and use. However, the law's drafters based their work on the thoroughly discredited idea that inanimate objects – in this case guns – control human behaviour, and the equally discredited idea that the average Canadian is so lacking in common sense and self-discipline that they must be closely micromanaged by the authorities at all times. This anti-gun bias was clearly stated by Allan Rock, Minister of Justice, when he said that he "came to Ottawa with the firm belief that the only people in this country who should have guns are police officers and soldiers." Liberal Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy was just as

explicit when he said, "Canada will be one of the first unarmed countries in the world," and "disarming the Canadian public is part of the new humanitarian social agenda." Let us explore this strange mix of crime fighting and social engineering.

### THE WHO OF VIOLENT CRIME

A century of criminology research has provided a very clear picture of violent criminals. This small, easily identified subgroup of the population has a number of characteristics:

- 80 to 90 per cent have previous convictions;
- An extensive history of violence and impulsive aggression;
- 16 per cent of men and 14 per cent of women have gang connections;
- 24 per cent of men have serious mental health problems;
- A general prevalence of low intelligence.

### GUNS & GANGS

Guns are only involved in two per cent of violent crime in Canada (firearms crime statistics are intentionally inflated by including crimes where a firearm was present during the offence and was not used in any manner). And only about one per cent of injuries from all that violent crime are due to firearms. These numbers make it clear that firearm violence is rare amongst the general public. Gangs, however, are a different story with much higher rates of violence.

Despite endless efforts to blame crime on society's imperfections, or on "root causes," gangs are primarily economic organizations. Their main activities are street-level drug sales, dominating their economic territory and enforcing criminal authority. Not surprisingly, most gang violence is committed against other gang members in business and turf fights. In Canada, street gangs are also used by more sophisticated crime

organizations as an untraceable way to project violence and intimidation. In 2012, 75 per cent of gang homicides involved a firearm. When compared to firearms being used in only 21 per cent of non-gang homicides, it becomes clear that firearms are the weapon of choice for gangs.

Some street gangs are primarily political, pursuing ideological or religious goals with criminal activities. This use of organized violence for political ends is a common pattern in the third world and is becoming more prominent in Canada due to our mass immigration policy being focused on immigrants from third world countries. Despite the official adoption of the "all cultures are equal" nostrum, we find that some cultures in our multicultural mosaic are more prone to gang activity than others. Ethnic gang distribution follows ethnic settlement patterns. British Columbia had the highest proportion of Asian members (37 per cent), Saskatchewan had the highest representation of First Nations members (96 per cent), and Ontario had the greatest percentage of East Indian members (21 per cent). Ontario also reported a high proportion of African-Canadian members (36 per cent), as did Quebec (51 per cent). A 2004 national police survey found the following distribution:

#### GANG COMPOSITION NATIONALLY BY ETHNICITY

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Caucasian        | 18 per cent |
| African-Canadian | 25 per cent |
| Asian            | 12 per cent |
| First Nations    | 22 per cent |
| Latino/Hispanic  | 6 per cent  |
| East Indian      | 14 per cent |

The types of firearms used by gangs also varies, from high-quality pistols in Vancouver to sawed-off shotguns in Saskatchewan. The number of firearms and amount of ammunition required by criminals is minuscule in relationship to what is easily available. Guns can be sourced through theft, or more commonly through smuggling. As a rule, they are difficult to trace, as the majority are unregistered.

Victims of violent crime are often the same people committing the crimes, or people who associate with them. The greatest risk factor for victimization is, not surprisingly, drug use. Canadian studies have established that users of cannabis were 6.8 times more likely, and users of other drugs were 9.5 times more likely, to become victims of violence. Al-

cohol use is also a factor. Binge drinking on a regular basis led to twice the rate of victimization. Clearly, behaviour can place people at risk.

The takeaway point to all this is that most violent crime takes place within a small subset of the population, and if we are serious about addressing it, the common-sense approach is to focus our limited resources where the problem is.

#### GUN OWNERS & THE LAW

Canada's gun control laws focus relentlessly on the law-abiding engaged in harmless recreational pursuits. The dishonesty of the law stems from the gap between the intent of the authors and their PR justification. Proponents of the current system often claim that confiscation is not happening and is not on the agenda. This lie rests on the hope that the public is too slow witted to recognize that the prohibited category of firearms is intended as a slow-motion method of confiscation affecting half of all handguns in Canada. This confiscation – without compensation – will be complete when the last prohibited licence holders leave the system. At no time has anyone produced any convincing evidence that these now-prohibited guns were more dangerous or used more frequently in crime. Claiming that they were more dangerous because they were "more concealable" is a shaky claim of "might be, could be," not evidence of actual use. The completely benighted approach of good guns, bad guns shifts attention away from actual crime onto inanimate objects.

Another example of the underlying irrationality of the law is the treatment of antiques. A firearm made before 1898 might be an antique, requiring no licence or registration; but the same gun, with identical features, made after that date needs both. Where, exactly, is the crime control in that?

What the system does excel in is administrative churn. For example, records were laboriously kept on 2,076,840 individual licence holders in 2016 and the Canadian Firearms Program churned out 406,592 licenses to support the program in the same year. This massive paper chase was directed at the law-abiding, with tiny percentages of rejections or cancellations. Misconduct, such as court-ordered prohibitions, domestic violence, drug offences, or violent behaviour, when found, generates a notice to the police for follow-up and

effectively ends any Firearms Program interest in these people, since they are now without guns. The actual number of firearms owners involved in violent crime is so small it barely amounts to a rounding error.

#### LOGIC & POSTURING

Our twisted gun laws are neither fish nor fowl, with an empty promise of safety through administrative micro-management, regulatory churn and an underlying agenda of disarmament through a death of a thousand cuts. This Rube Goldberg machine is a breathtakingly inefficient method for addressing violent crime.

The ban-and-confiscate motive behind the law is dysfunctional, since it merely distorts and complicates the law without actually accomplishing its aim. In both instances, it is a classic example of political cowardice and double speak. Even more unfortunately, it all too clearly reflects the Liberal Party's approach to governance. We have a government that thinks budgets balance themselves and then happily predicts billions in deficit out to 2050. So, reality challenged are our betters, that even the culture of Canada itself, as defined by four centuries of French, British and Aboriginal interaction, is up for grabs.

This odd mixture of political cowardice, invented realities and PR bubbles does not promise well for gun owners or anyone else. The underlying lesson from all this is that irrespective of what policy one wants to promote, a firm grounding in reality, not ideology, is the only effective basis for policy.

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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## The Gun That Won The West?



Top: C.G. Bonehill, Birmingham, 1850s 13-gauge percussion shotgun; middle: William Watson, London, 1870s, 12-gauge, two-and-a-half-inch cartridge gun; bottom: Contemporary, inexpensive 12-gauge shotgun.

"The gun that won the west" has a great ring to it. The phrase conjures up graphic images of cowboys, First Nations and cavalry having great adventures and conflicts in black and white, and sometimes in Technicolour. However, "the gun that won the west" is one of those grand myths concocted for advertising. After all, the dashing cowboy with his Colt single-action on his hip and a Winchester 1873 in hand is a great visual. Movies like Winchester 73 and Colt 45, combined with all the westerns of the 1940s and '50s, promoted this epic fiction. The reality is, this slogan was dreamed up for a Winchester advertisement by Winchester employee Edwind Pugsley in 1919.

The romantic idea of the Colt single-action and Winchester 73 winning the west is pure fantasy, because the cowboy imagery of these guns as a standard cowboy kit is wrong! Cowboys, frontiersmen and First Nations of the late 19th century carried such a vast assortment of firearms that just the list

would require an entire article.

### THE REALITY

Historically, if there is a universal firearm of early and modern Canada, it is a smooth bore, or in modern terms, a shotgun, that can be employed with shot or a solid projectile. The association begins with Samuel De Champlain in 1603 with the introduction to Canada of the Arquebus, a large, heavy smoothbore with matchlock ignition and fired from a support. The early French settlers used it for hunting and defence. The First Nations people were in awe of it, but did not rush to adopt the new technology as it was not readily adaptable to their environment.

Through the late 1600s, firearms technology advanced rapidly from matchlocks, wheellocks and other ignition devices to the flintlock, which would reign for 200 years. By the 1630s, French, Dutch and English traders began to import heavy, large-calibre trade guns to the colonies. These guns were of the

large dog-lock patterns of the era, and ranged from .50 to .75 calibre. The Dutch trade guns were of lighter .50 to .60 calibres, but remained heavy with club-like stocks. The French common musket was developed by the 1690s and became the firearm of choice for the French colonies and as a trade item for First Nations. In the early 1700s, it became the Fusil de Chasse, a long, slender, elegant smoothbore of .50 to .60 calibre, the favoured gun for hunting and defence for both French settlers and First Nations in New France.

By 1627, the Seigneurial system was well established in New France, with 80 per cent of the population living in a rural setting governed by this system. The Habitants were issued with a musket, powder and balls, and in 1669 King Louis the Fourteenth decreed that all men aged 16 to 60 years must do mandatory military service in each parish's militia. In 1684, Governor De Laybarre of New France received 500 smoothbore Fusils and 200 smoothbore



Two North-West guns and a chief's grade gun contrasted with two stocks (inset) of the Fusil de Chasse style.

pistols. The militiamen were ordered to have and maintain in their homes a Fusil, powder and ammunition. The Huron and Algonquin allies were also armed with Fusils. Approximately 6,000 of these guns were shipped to Canada between 1729 and 1741. Between 1700 and 1734, there were a number of finer guns shipped for the First Nations chiefs.

In 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was issued its Royal Charter and the competition for Canada became intense. The race was on by both the French and English to arm everyone in frontier Canada. As the web of Hudson's Bay forts spread throughout Canada and the northwest United States, the rivalry between Britain and France became a military quest. The English controlled the eastern seaboard of the United States, the French controlled what is now Ontario and Quebec, plus the Maritimes. The French also controlled the Louisiana territory, all the way up the Mississippi Valley to the Great Lakes. In 1754, the French made incursions into the Ohio Valley and the conflict for who would control North America began.

From 1754 to 1756, the British and the French began open warfare on the frontier. The French were well equipped and were supported by well-armed and well-formed alliances of First Nations. The French Fusil proved its mettle. In 1756, the British turned the tide and the Seven Years War in Europe began.

The British had raised financing and expanded their military, and the Brown Bess was effectively used by them to conquer North America. After 1763, the French were forced to yield Canada and all the Louisiana territory to the English.

During this era, the Hudson's Bay Company, in concert with British gunmakers, were developing what was to emerge as the English trade gun, or what became known as the North-West gun. But another trading company, the Northwest Company of Montreal, was formed in 1784. The Hudson's Bay Company, spurred on by the Northwest Company, began to import these inexpensive, no-frills trade guns, and both companies imported thousands of them. They would become the standard firearm of the Canadian west.

Yes, cartridge guns were carried by inhabitants of the west; however, cartridges were expensive and hard to find at the trading posts and forts of the Canadian frontier. European settlers



and First Nations adopted the North-West gun as the working gun for gathering food and for protection. The invention of the percussion cap made priming much easier, but flint guns were easier to maintain. Flints, powder and lead were easily obtained from any trader or frontier settler. As the Canadian frontier urbanized, percussion caps and fixed ammunition became easier to obtain. Still, in the remotest parts of rural Canada,

percussion cap, muzzleloading shotguns remained the choice until the early part of the 20th century.

As the latter part of the 19th century unfolded, the proliferation of the shotgun grew. Various makers, both offshore and domestic, made shotguns in every grade – from bargain-priced single shots, to highly prized double barrels. From then to this date, every farm, trappers cabin, vacation cabin in the woods, ranch house, hunting camp and even some urban homes house a shotgun of some type.

The smoothbore has faithfully served Canadians for over 400 years. It is used extensively in clay target games, as well as in the field for upland game bird hunting, waterfowling and, with slugs, for big game. Even for defence of home or hunting camp, the smoothbore is often preferred. There's no doubt, the smoothbore firearm is a pillar in Canada's firearm heritage and an integral component of our Canadian story. ♦

BROWNELLS

# Retro

5.56  
MODELS



These are Brownell's  
branded rifles, aimed at  
the growing interest in  
retro military firearms.



# TRENDS & FORECASTS

BY AL VOTH

The SHOT Show acts as the yearly kick-off for everyone involved in the firearms industry. But only people in that industry are allowed to attend. The public is not invited and the organizers go to some lengths to ensure the credentials of everyone there. Considering the magnitude of the event, that's a major chore. There are lots of statistics to explain how big it is; for example, there are 2,000 exhibitors spread along 20 kilometres of aisles. However, the statistic which is the most informative tells us that if you wanted to visit every booth at the show, you'd only have 22 seconds to spend at each one.

But it's not necessary to visit every booth to capture the trends that are evident at the show. Simply walking by them and seeing what's on display provides a good indication of that. However, to go beyond trends and look at forecasts requires talking to people in the industry, and getting them to open up about what's going on and what they see in the future.

## INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATION

Big companies buying little companies has been a continuing trend for a number of years. And there's no sign it's letting up. Of course, the biggest consolidation news this past year was Bass Pro's purchase of Cabela's. What effect that will have on Cabela's Canada remains to be seen. But sources tell me we'll start by seeing some Bass Pro house brands, like Red Head, showing up in Cabela's stores.

Smaller consolidation stories include one in the firearm maintenance world, with Otis Technology purchasing Shooter's Choice. Both brands are familiar to Canadian shooters and I'm told the Shooter's Choice line will continue, but expect some tweaking, repackaging and a new look overall. And for those, like me, who love electrically heated clothing, Heat Factory has purchased the ThermaCell line of heated gear. In this category, they are best known for their heated insoles, but you can expect to see the line expand to gloves, muffs and other items. Company principles assured me the quality we've come to expect from ThermaCell will continue and even be improved upon.

At the other end of the consolidation spectrum is the loss of Wholesale Sports as a major retail and online seller, especially in western Canada. Management decided to get out of the hunting/fishing/shooting business and did an orderly shutdown in December. So, the buyers from that firm weren't prowling the SHOT Show floor. However, I did see the owners of smaller gun shops looking busy and telling me they were hoping to fill some of the gap left by the absence of Wholesale Sports.

## INDUSTRY MOVEMENT

It's also worth noting the number of firearm industries in the US which have recently relocated in response to the changing political climate in their home states. We Canadians tend to think of all of the US as being gun-friendly, but

companies don't see it that way, and are voting with their feet. The latest example being Weatherby, which held an event at SHOT to announce they are leaving California and moving their entire operation to Wyoming. And they are just the latest to make that move. Mesa Tactical did it recently, moving to Nevada, while Apex Tactical figured Arizona was the place to build their new 50,000-square-foot facility and put California and its political oppression in their rear-view mirror. A few years ago, Magpul did it to Colorado when that state passed some sweeping anti-gun legislation. They packed up their huge manufacturing and distribution facility, and all the jobs that went with it, and split it between Texas and Wyoming. The list goes on.

And why is this important? Because it can happen here. Canada is in the process of building a great firearms-related industry, but government can effectively ham-string it with oppressive legislation. When the burden gets to be too much, companies move. And it seems that governments don't care, because the US model suggests they would rather pass ineffective, feel-good legislation that kills jobs, rather than tackle real issues.

## PRECISION RIFLES

I've been around long enough to see a number of shooting sports come and go, and the current growth sport seems to be the action-oriented version of precision rifle shooting. It's a great sport ➤



**Remington's 700 PCR rifle addresses the growing interest in practical precision rifle shooting.**

which has real potential for improving a shooter's practical rifle skills. My fondest wish is to see the sport create a division for practical hunting rifles, in order to attract more "everyday" firearms owners, and that might happen yet. But it wasn't in evidence at SHOT, where almost every manufacturer was displaying some kind of tricked-out, bolt-action rifle suitable for this sport. Typically, they feature a detachable magazine, a fully adjustable buttstock

and a chassis system with lots of rail or M-Lok attachment points. These are far too heavy and cumbersome to be useful for most hunting applications, but that's not their role. These are competition guns, designed to shoot accurately at long distances. In this category, there were offerings from Ruger, Remington, Ritter & Stark, Savage, Christensen Arms, Kimber, Tikka, Sako, Bergara and more. I don't recall when a rifle shooting sport generated as much interest

from manufacturers as this one.

Remington's version was introduced at the show and is an excellent example of the breed. Based on the 700 action, it's called the 700 PCR (Precision Chassis Rifle). It's available in 260 Rem, 6.5 Creedmoor and 308 Win. The 24-inch barrel has 5R rifling and a sub-MOA guarantee, with a confirmation target in every box. The buttstock and pistol grip are Magpul, while the detachable magazine is AI compatible. Canadian





retail should hover around \$1,500.

#### OPTICS

As you'd expect, there were a good number of new optical products introduced at the SHOT Show. They included new riflescopes, binoculars, spotting scopes and rangefinders from established names like Leupold, Nikon, Leica and Vortex. But a noticeable trend was the number of small start-up firms marketing a new line of optics. On the lower floor, which houses the smaller booths, it seemed that every fifth booth was a small optical company. A quick stop to look at some of these offerings rapidly brings the conclusion that they are all made off-shore, likely in the same factory.

Obviously, more than one entrepreneur has noticed the success of some optical companies and is hoping to replicate it with their own line. They contract with an Asian factory to produce

a number of items with their brand on it and are now waiting for the money to roll in. I hate to rain on anyone's parade, but I'll forecast that in a few years most of these guys won't be around and the people who bought their products will have foggy paperweights. You've been warned.

The trend toward rangefinders with longer and better performance continues, as well. Leica and Nikon both displayed tiny rangefinders that fit in your pocket and claim to hit 3,000 yards. I'm not sure why I'd need a rangefinder with that capability, but I guess it's there if you need it. The Nikon offering is unique in that it features optical image stabilization. And that, I think, is a big deal, as it will make it much easier to hold the unit steady enough to range distant targets. I run Nikon cameras with this feature and it's a game changer for photography.

And speaking of photography, we all

know that small, personal cameras are almost extinct, having been killed off by the smart phones we now carry. So, what do the firms that used to sell boatloads of small cameras replace them with? Fujifilm seems to have picked riflescopes, as they were displaying a fairly complete line at SHOT. Go figure.

#### TRAINING SYSTEMS

A positive trend I see continuing is the number of training systems being promoted at SHOT. The simplest of these include devices like the Mantis X, which is a tiny box that mounts on your gun and tracks dry firing skills. The most sophisticated are large, commercial installations with movie screens that you shoot at with special laser-firing guns. Many of these products are aimed at the concealed carry market in the US, and those that can run simulated scenarios would certainly be valuable to gun owners with the "carry" option. ➤



Nikon is adding optical image stabilization to a laser rangefinder, for 3000-yard performance.

With the collapse of the small camera market, Fujifilm has moved into riflescopes.



The Mantis X is a tiny box that mounts on your gun and tracks dry firing skills.





**SHOT Show** is the world's largest annual show for firearms industry professionals.



All of these systems are fun to use and if you want to drop some dollars on one of them, it's probably hard to go wrong. A standout this year was at the Aimpoint booth, where they were displaying a virtual reality system. It required the typical VR headset and a special rifle. You could run a number of different scenarios (I chose the hog shooting one) and it was a fun game. This was just a demo unit, and they wouldn't talk release date or price, but claimed they were targeting the individual consumer. If they can build this unit so that a shooter can use a personal gun and the lead and follow through required to down a flying duck is accurate, this has huge potential. If not, it's just a fun game, which isn't a bad thing either.

#### RETRO

The interest in mid-20th century military firearms continues unabated at SHOT. On range day, Winchester introduced a new line of period-correct ammunition in 30-06 Sprg, 30 M1, 45 ACP and 12 gauge, for those with correspondingly correct firearms. Even the packaging has a retro look. Colt is offering a reproduction of the M16A1, with triangular handguards, three-prong flash hider and US Government property markings. Price is a princely \$2,500 US.

There must be something to this trend because even Brownell's, the gunsmith's best friend, has jumped on the wagon. And they don't make business mistakes. They held a news conference at SHOT to introduce a line of rifles with the Brownell's brand on them. While that's a first for them, the other noteworthy part is that all

three rifles are retros. There's a 308 Win calibre reproduction of the AR-10, and 5.56mm reproductions of the M16A1, the AR-15 (1960s variation complete with green furniture), the XM16E1 and the XM177E2. Prices run from \$1,300 to \$1,700 US.

#### THE FORECAST

Forecasting the future in terms of the US situation is fairly easy, as long as Trump can hold the White House. If so, there won't be any of the hoarding we saw in the Obama years. But once the Democrats are back in power, you can expect it to start all over again. This suggests that the smart Canadian will stock up over the next few years. The dollar is trending upward as I write this, so it might be time to consider working towards laying in a prudent stock of ammunition and reloading components. When these items are available at decent prices, doing so is never a bad idea for Canadian shooters. Doubly so right now, as NAFTA still hasn't been settled and we could face border disruptions if things go badly in those negotiations.

The Canadian situation is a little more difficult to forecast, particularly because the Liberals haven't bestowed their latest round of gun control legislation on us yet, making it anyone's guess as to what will happen in the next few months. But they are saying it will be legislation not regulation, so that means it has to have three readings in the House of Commons, go to the Senate for approval and be signed off by the Governor General. That's not a fast process and it should give us time to react. ♦



The Momentum is  
Franchi's first rifle.



# SPORTING ARMS & AMMUNITION

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

**O**n Jan. 21, I flew to Las Vegas for my sixth SHOT Show. Over this time, I've seen many changes to what we typically call sporting guns. Some are now so sleek, modern and synthetic, they don't bear much resemblance to the classic wood and steel hunting firearms I grew up with. While celebrating its 40th anniversary, the SHOT Show still held pleasant surprises. And at this milestone, it's refreshing to see the industry embrace new technologies, yet honour our hunting and shooting heritage with the release of a few classic firearms.

## CENTREFIRE RIFLES

There is interesting news from Franchi, the Italian shotgun maker. The company is building its first hunting rifle, the Momentum, at a price point that will turn heads. The Momentum is a synthetic-stock bolt-action with a three-lug fluted bolt (giving it a 60-degree bolt throw), a hammer-forged, free-floating barrel (22- to 24-inches, depending on calibre) and an adjustable trigger. Chamberings include six popular cartridges ranging from 243 Win to 300 Win Mag. Unique features include recessed sling swivels and a checkered hand recess near the butt plate for shooting off a bench. The Momentum is available in both threaded and non-threaded muzzles, and as a combo with a Burris Fullfield II 3-9x40 scope. It's backed by a seven-year warranty. MSRP is \$609 for the rifle and \$729 for the rifle/scope combo.

Mauser builds some of the finest rifles in the industry, but sticker shock prevents most of us from owning one. That's about to change. Priced at \$700 US, Mauser has nicknamed the M 18 "The People's Rifle," putting Mauser quality in an affordable package. It's currently configured in seven calibres: 6.5 Creedmoor, 243 Win, 308 Win, 270 Win, 30-06 Sprg, 7mm Rem Mag and 300 Win Mag. The fit and finish are the fine quality you would expect from Mauser. It includes a detachable box magazine, which mates perfectly with the action through its synthetic stock. Now I'll need to make room in the gun safe for a new Mauser hunting rifle.

Walnut stocks are scarce these days, so it's always exciting to see a company release a new model sporting a beautiful wooden stock. Winchester Repeating Arms introduced the XPR Sporter for 2018. It features a Grade 1 walnut stock with 18 LPI laser-cut checkering on the pistol grip and forend, matte blued receiver, free-floating barrel and MOA trigger system. It is chambered for one of 12 popular cartridges ranging from 243 Win to 325 WSM. A big game rifle with classic styling at an affordable price, with MSRP at \$600 US.

The first thing you'll notice about the Weatherby Vanguard First Lite big game rifle is its modern finish. A Monte Carlo design stock with right-side palm swell and textured forearm grip are covered in First Lite Fusion camouflage. The rifle is chambered in eight calibres, four of which are Weath-

erby magnums, as well as four traditional cartridges. Magnum calibres have 26-inch hammer-forged fluted barrels (except for 240 Wby Mag) while all other chamberings use 24-inch barrels. All rifles include a muzzle brake, which adds two inches to the overall barrel length. The action and barrel are finished in Cerakote's Flat Dark Earth, which seamlessly matches the brown of the stock's camouflage. MSRP is \$1,090 US.

Barrett, a familiar name in the defense industry, has set its sights on hunters with an ultralight Fieldcraft line of rifles. The Fieldcraft is a bolt-action rifle with a carbon fibre stock. A fluted bolt and slim barrel contour shave additional weight from this already light gun. It comes in barrel lengths from 18 to 24 inches, and weighs from five to five-and-three-quarter pounds, depending on calibre. Ten different chamberings from 22-250 Rem to 30-06 Sprg are available. The list even includes 6.5x55 Swede, an interesting choice! The Fieldcraft is the hardcore mountain hunter's dream gun. Loaded with premium features, these rifles have an MSRP around \$1,800 US.

## RIMFIRE RIFLES

Let's start the rimfire rifle highlights with a beautifully crafted rifle from Steyr Arms. The Zephyr II is a redesigned rimfire rifle tracing its roots back to the original Zephyr rifle, which was produced from 1955 through >

\$699

# THE NEW MAUS - MADE IN GERMAN

ULTRA - RUGGED  
SYNTHETIC STOCK

SOFT INLAY  
GRIP

3 POSITION SAFETY

STEEL RECH



1971. A traditional European walnut stock with fish-scale-pattern checker-ing sets this rifle apart. The Zephyr II has a distinctive Steyr Mannlicher butter knife bolt handle, tang safety and detachable five-round box magazine, plus a threaded muzzle. It sports a hammer-forged 19.7-inch barrel chambered in either 17 HMR, 22 LR or 22 WMR. At only 5.8 pounds, the Zephyr II should be a great field rifle. MSRP is \$995 US.

I love rimfire rifles, especially tack

drivers. So, I was thrilled to hear that Tikka, a company known for high-quality craftsmanship and accurate centerfire rifles, designed a rimfire rifle – the T1x MTR (Multi Task Rimfire). One of its unique features is that the stock can be interchanged with its big brother, the T3x centerfire rifle. The action, shape, bedding surfaces and inlay footprint are identical, meaning that aftermarket stocks designed for the T3x can be used with the T1x MTR. Other features include the same type

of trigger found in Tikka centerfires, a 10-round magazine, stainless-steel bolt, two-position safety and a stock that can be lengthened with spacers to grow with young shooters. The T1x is available in 22 LR and 17 HMR. MSRP is \$499 US.

Rounding out the rimfire section is a rifle as far from traditional as you can get – the Ruger Precision Rimfire. Chambered in 22 LR, the rifle uses a one-piece chassis with a fully adjustable stock to wring top accuracy out

# ER M 18

Y -  
EIVER

COLD HAMMER FORGED BARREL.



The Mauser M18 is an affordable centerfire rifle priced at \$699 US.

of a rimfire cartridge. This rifle was designed as a training gun with similar ergonomics to its big brother, the Ruger Precision Rifle. Given its outstanding accuracy, this rifle would be a deadly option in a gopher-infested pasture. The rifle has a Picatinny rail for mounting an optic and features a free-floating handguard, surrounding an 18-inch, hammer-forged target barrel. As a bonus, it utilizes detachable 10/22-style magazines. MSRP is \$529 US.

## SHOTGUNS

SHOT Show's shotguns lead off with the rebirth of an American classic, the Fox A Grade shotgun. These box-lock side-by-sides have double triggers and an automatic safety. Fox shotguns feature checkered, straight-grip, American black walnut stocks, splinter forends and bone and charcoal case-colour finished receivers. They are chambered in 12 and 20 gauge, with either a 26- or 28-inch barrel. One nice upgrade from the original is interchangeable

choke tubes. These sweet classics are made for Savage by Connecticut Shotgun Manufacturing Company and styled after the original A.H. Fox shotguns. The MSRP of the A Grade shotgun is \$4,999 US.

Both Remington and Mossberg released detachable-magazine-fed pump-action shotguns this year. I had a chance to shoot the Mossberg on the range and it functioned well. Frankly, I didn't see any bird-hunting applications where a detachable-magazine-fed shotgun would outperform a tubular magazine. Its sole purpose is for fast reloads, and on a 3-gun course that's great. So why am I including them in my discussion of sporting guns? Because Remington's 870 DM Predator, clearly made for hunting, caught my eye as both a deer and varmint-hunting option. And yes, detachable magazines would be perfect for a target-rich environment, or anytime you need to swap magazines to change types of ammunition. To avoid detection, the SurShot semi-thumbhole stock, forend and barrel are dipped in Kryptek Highlander camouflage. It includes Trulock predator/turkey and hog chokes, which should work equally well on coyotes. The 870 DM family of shotguns use either three- or six-round box magazines. MSRP is \$799 US.

The Browning Citori CXS over-and-under shotgun is a crossover gun, meaning it is suitable for both hunting and clay shooting. Like all Citori shotguns, the fit and finish on the CXS guns are impeccable. The stock and forearm are gloss-finish Grade II American walnut and feature a Schnabel-style forend. The gun is chambered for 12-gauge, three-inch shells and is supplied with three Invector-Plus Midas Grade choke tubes. An adjustable comb model allows the shooter to customize the fit of the stock to his or her needs. Choose from three-barrel lengths of either 28, 30 or 32 inches. MSRP is \$2,140 US or models with an adjustable comb for \$2,540 US.





The new Tikka T1x MTR is chambered in .17 HMR and .22 LR.

The Ruger Precision Rimfire is a modern sporting rifle chambered in .22 LR



The Remington 870 DM Predator is one of several models of detachable-magazine shotguns introduced by Remington this year.



#### AIR GUNS & ACCESSORIES

The Umarex Hammer boasts the title of most powerful production airgun on the planet. A .50-calibre air rifle that launches a 550-grain lead slug at 760 feet per second, it generates a whopping 705 foot-pounds of energy at the muzzle. Using a lighter 250-grain slug, the velocity exceeds 1,000 feet per second. The rifle's forend accepts M-LOK accessories. The Umarex Hammer is equipped with an AR Magpul grip, quick-disconnect Foster fittings to fill the onboard air cylinder, an externally visible air pressure gauge, a button-rifled 29.5-inch .50-calibre barrel and 8.5-inches of Picatinny rail. Three full-power shots are possible from its 24-cubic-inch tank. At the range, the Hammer smacked the steel target with authority. Now if we could only hunt big game with these guns in Canada! MSRP is \$800 US.

Pre-Charged Pneumatic (PCP) airguns are fun to shoot, but air-hungry guns like the Umarex Hammer need to be topped up regularly for optimum performance. Well, there's good news from Crosman Corporation: They introduced a portable compressor, the Benjamin Traveler, to fill PCP guns within minutes at home or in the field. The compressor can be used to fill up to a 0.6-litre (36.6 cubic inches) air tank to a maximum of 4,500 psi. It can be run off any 12-volt car or ATV battery or plugged into a home outlet. An in-line filter prevents dirt or moisture from entering the air reservoir. MSRP is \$649 US.

#### AMMUNITION

Kent Cartridge is a familiar name to many Canadian wing and clay shooters. Known

for their hard-hitting, clean-burning shotshells, it's exciting to see several new loads for 2018. Kent added five shotshell loads to their Elite clay target line, including Target, Pro Target, Steel Target, Low Recoil/Training and Bio-Fiber. On the waterfowl side, Kent Bismuth, a shot with 25 per cent greater density than steel, is now more affordable and packaged in 25-round boxes. Kent Bismuth is available in 12, 16, 20 and 28 gauge. Kent also released three different dove loads to match your hunting conditions.

For hunting small game, I've always bought 22 LR ammunition with deep hollow points for maximum effect. CCI's new Mini-Mag Segmented Hollow Point is a bullet engineered to split into three equal-size parts on impact, creating three distinct wound channels that quickly take down small game and varmints. If you prefer the 17 HMR, perhaps the 17 HMRVNT is more to your liking. At 2,650 feet per second, this 17-grain, polymer-tipped bullet will have devastating terminal effects on varmints.

This spring, the turkeys are in trouble if you're using Federal's new Heavyweight Tungsten Super Shot turkey loads. Tungsten is so dense that No. 9 shot has the same penetration as No. 5 lead. Payloads with up to 900 pellets are so dense a fly would have trouble getting through. These heavyweight champs are available in 12 and 20 gauge, and .410 loads. Cost is from \$6 to \$10 US per shell, depending on gauge.

As always, SHOT Show had so many new and improved products that I can only scratch the surface in this limited space. Watch the pages of the *CFJ* in coming issues for in-depth coverage of these products and more. ♦





# BLACK GUNS & HANDGUNS

BY DEAN ROXBY

**W**hether you call them black rifles, tactical guns or modern sporting rifles (MSR), there is no denying they are a large segment of annual gun sales. And if they are of interest to you, the 2018 SHOT Show had plenty. It's easy to see why the AR-15 is referred to as "America's gun." AR-15 clones were everywhere. With most US firearms companies now producing an AR-15 variant, a list of who does not make a version would be shorter. While the patents have long since expired, the name AR-15 is trademarked, so each new maker will coin their own name. The same situation is also happening with the AR-15's older brother, the AR-10 design, which is now enjoying a solid resurgence.

It's a simple fact: US politics affects Canadian shooters. Currently, the US is experiencing the "Trump Effect." Specifically, during the run up to the November 2016 federal election, it seemed that Hillary and the Democrats would surely win. And with that, sweeping gun bans would just as certainly follow. The preceding eight years of Democrat presidency led to the highest sales of guns and accessories ever. The gun industry and the gun-buying public were preparing for more panic buying. Then, one Tuesday evening, it all changed...

With a gun-friendly president in the White House, the panic immediately

subsided. Bricks of .22 rimfire no longer sell for \$100 US, reloading powder is back in stock and AR-15-type rifle sales have slumped by around two thirds. With a huge drop in sales comes a price drop, as well. Canadians didn't get caught up in a buying frenzy, but we certainly experienced shortages, as US companies tried to fulfill their domestic market first. Now, with prices dropping and items back in stock, US gun businesses are talking about a softer retail market.

## RIFLES

Several FRT decisions came down shortly before SHOT, so I was able to discuss the Canadian market with some vendors. I was curious to know if manufacturers are now looking to sell into Canada. The feeling I got was that the smaller manufacturers are able to change direction more easily and have noticed the Canadian market. Certainly Kel-Tec and Robinson Armament have been benefiting from us for years. In fact, Kel-Tec has just received notice that their RDB rifle has been issued a non-restricted FRT number by the RCMP. Kel-Tec announced the RDB (Rifle, Downward eject, Bullpup) at the 2016 SHOT Show. In late September 2017, the RCMP granted it non-restricted status, subject to barrel length. The first batch will probably be on the

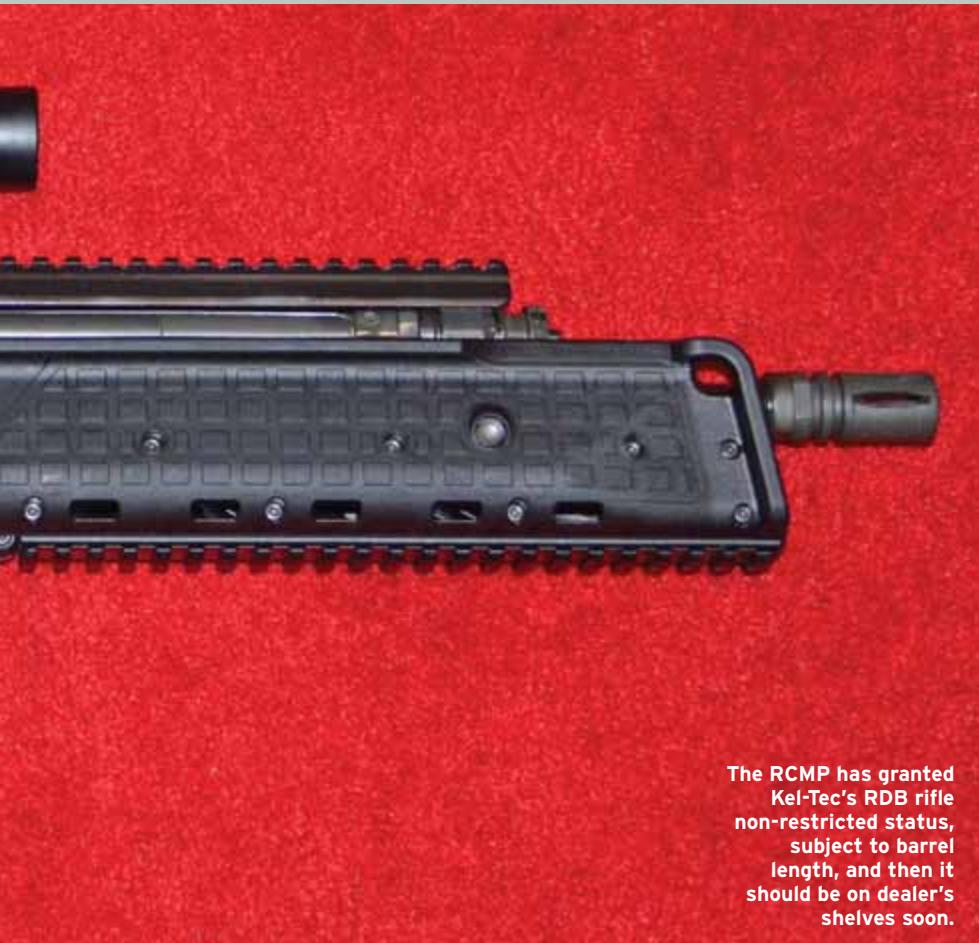
IWI-USA Tavor TS-12 bullpup 12 gauge.





**500 Auto Max cartridge from Big Horn Armory, of Wyoming. This is a rimless version of the mighty S&W 500 Magnum round.**





The RCMP has granted Kel-Tec's RDB rifle non-restricted status, subject to barrel length, and then it should be on dealer's shelves soon.



AR-10 style rifle chambered in 500 Auto Max, from Big Horn Armory.

shelves about the time this issue reaches you.

In October 2017, not long after the Kel-Tec RDB approval, the M+M Industries M10X was also approved as non-restricted. Unfortunately, the initial release of the M10X didn't go quite as smoothly as hoped, something about three separate importers attempting to release the same item. Drama aside, the rifle itself seems well thought out and well constructed.

I spoke with M+M president Mike Meier about the Canadian market and model. He said the Canadian version will have an upgraded trigger group that is not yet available to US customers. This seemed odd, so I asked why. The simple answer is that the Canadian importer asked for and committed to the upgrade, while no US dealer has done so yet. Now the American gun-buying public is starting to notice! "Hey, why don't we get that?" The M10X is imported by North Sylva, and sold through their dealer network.

Also getting a non-restricted FRT late in 2017 was the M17S-C bullpup rifle from K&M Arms. The K&M M17 is currently chambered in 223 Wylde (allows both 223 Remington and 5.56 NATO ammunition to be used safely), and a 308 version is awaiting RCMP classification. The M17 is imported and sold by I Run Guns.

The long-awaited Desert Tech MDR (Micro Dynamic Rifle) is getting closer to reality. A representative told me that they have been shipping MDR rifles in the US since August. He also said they have submitted a sample to the RCMP, and await an answer.

I saw a new design last year from a new company, Skeli Advanced Firearm Technology. The Skeli X11 is a slick-looking rifle that features a quick-change barrel system. It is still in prototype form. In fact, the demo units they had at SHOT were 3D rapid prototype printed versions. They were actual functioning, fireable guns with a steel receiver, but the folding stock was 3D printed. They hope to be in production within a year. They are very aware of the Canadian market, and have been in talks regarding us. No names at



FK Brno Field Pistol, and  
the 7.5mm FK rounds.



Desert Tech has  
submitted their  
MDR rifle to the  
RCMP, and when  
approved, will  
be available in  
Canada.



this point, though. When I mentioned that I am doing a report for *CFJ*, sales director Taylor Melcher said the X11 is available in any colour except black, a variation on the old Henry Ford line. The X11 is a gas-operated, short-stroke system. If you know your way around an SKS or an FN-FAL, this will be easy to strip and reassemble.

IWI-USA released their new Tavor 7 in 308 Winchester for the SHOT Show. It is basically a scaled-up version of the 5.56mm NATO Tavor. I tried to confirm if it has been submitted for an FRT yet, but could not by press time. I see no reason it wouldn't be approved, though.

Another rifle I have been watching, the Masterpiece Arms MPAR 556, has now been discontinued. It is likely that the MPAR is a victim of the Trump Effect mentioned earlier. I asked several vendors about this specifically, and got a variety of answers ranging from, "No effect," to "It's brutal." The vendor claiming no loss of sales said that US buyers looking for something other than another AR clone will still pay the price for something different. However, another manufacturer said that sales of AR-style rifles are off by 60 to 70 per cent, and that a starter rifle can now be bought for \$450 US.

## CARTRIDGES

Several new rifle cartridges were featured at SHOT 2018. From Federal, we have the 224 Valkyrie. The Valkyrie case has a larger-diameter body than the 223 Rem., allowing for increased powder capacity. It is based on the 6.8 SPC case, necked down to .22 calibre. Last year, Nosler introduced a similar round, the 22 Nosler. Both cartridges push heavier, longer .22-calibre bullets faster than the standard 223 Remington round, resulting in much less wind drift at long range.

The AR-15 was once called a "mouse gun" due to the small 223 Remington round it was first chambered in. No longer is this the situation. A recent trend is the introduction of large-bore cartridges for this platform. In the last few years, we have seen the 450

Bushmaster, 458 SOCOM and the 50 Beowulf rounds appear for the AR-10 platform. Now you can add the 45-70 Auto and the 500 Auto Max to the list.

The 500 Auto Max (it was first called the Auto Mag, since renamed to Max) is actually the mighty 500 S&W Mag with an extractor groove in place of the rim. This rimless design allows it to feed from a box magazine. Load data is simply 500 S&W data. It is from Big Horn Armory of Cody, WY. A similar round from Phoenix Weaponry is the 45-70 Auto. First revealed in December 2017, this is simply the classic 45-70 Govt. with the rim machined off and a groove added. For both of these, reloading is done with the parent case reloading dies, but with a 308 Win shell holder.

Unfortunately for Canadians, the AR-15 is a range-only rifle, so these high-powered rounds are wasted on paper. Hopefully the creators of these rounds offer them as "open source," allowing others to chamber rifles to the same specs. This would be good for the long-term survivability of the design, and good for Canadians that wish to re-barrel a non-restricted rifle for hunting big game.

## SHOTGUNS

The arms industry in Turkey is growing by leaps and bounds. For several years, Turkey has been producing 12-gauge shotguns that look very much like an overgrown AR-15. There are several versions available in Canada already. They look more or less the same, with small differences, different names, and presumably different corporate ownership. Now Turkey seems set to introduce 12-gauge bullpup shotguns. I saw three different Turkish bullpups, and there may have been more I missed.

From Derya comes two related models, the Derya N-100 and N-200. The N-100 has a polymer lower, while the N-200 has an aluminum lower. I did not get a chance to take either apart, so I may be a bit off when I refer to the lower receiver. The two versions look a fair bit different from each other, but I was told the internals are the same.

At the Girsan booth, I came across the Adler BP-12, and at the Husan Arms booth was the MKA 1920. Both of these are also 12-gauge bullpups from Turkey, yet they seem to all be unrelated. O'Dell Engineering of Ontario is hoping to bring all three of these to Canada. They have recently submitted samples to the RCMP. Now we wait.

IWI-USA managed to keep the new Tavor TS-12 shotgun a secret up until a few days prior to SHOT. It is also a bullpup design, but does not use a typical detachable box magazine. Instead, it uses three tube magazines built as one unit. Each tube holds five rounds for a total of 15, plus one in the chamber, for a total max capacity of 16. It is still unclear whether the RCMP will regard this as one 15-round magazine, or three five-rounders. Either way, it is a bit of a bulky thing.

## HANDGUNS

I have to admit I don't follow the handgun market nearly as closely as I do rifles, but one pistol that stood out to me is the FK Brno Field Pistol from the Czech Republic. It is chambered in the all-new 7.5mm FK round. This bottlenecked round is a real screamer for a pistol cartridge. It pushes a 95-grain bullet at over 2,000 feet per second. I didn't get to fire it, but I did examine it. The gun feels wonderfully smooth when the slide is cycled by hand, but quality always comes at a price. It will be about \$7,000 US, or more. It is imported by International Firearms Corp.

Another notable handgun at SHOT 2018 was the return of the 44 Auto Mag pistol (AMP). The 44 AMP may be best known as featured in the fourth *Dirty Harry* movie, *Sudden Impact*. The original production was from 1971 to 1982. After being out of production for 35 years, the Auto Mag pistol is back! Excel Industries and Auto Mag Ltd. are now re-introducing this classic pistol in very limited numbers.

Of course, there was lots more, but this does give you some of the highlights. ♦



# HANDLOADING PRODUCTS

BY THOMAS C. TABOR

Many of us who prefer to reload our own ammunition began doing so based on the promise it would save us money. But while the cost-saving aspect of stuffing your own shells certainly has merit, that is only a small part of the benefits associated with handloading. Whether your area of interest lies in casually punching holes in paper, bringing down your favourite game animal or bird, or participating in competitive shooting events, reloading your own ammunition has the ability to improve your success, expand your shooting enjoyment and reward you in ways that over-the-counter ammunition simply cannot match.

I personally got into handloading nearly five decades ago, and before long I was reloading nearly all of my ammunition. Over the years, my inventory of equipment increased in an effort to make my handloading more efficient and the ammunition I produced more accurate. And those trends and objectives continue to this day.

Each year, the manufacturers of handloading products and supplies, along with other related shooting fields, get together at the annual SHOT Show as a way of showing off those items and to make sales to retail and wholesale buyers. I attend that show every year in anxious anticipation of seeing what new and creative items will be made

available. The following are a few of these great new additions that I found particularly noteworthy.

#### BETTER BULLETS

Berger has been making handloading bullets for many decades and the company's new line of hunting-style bullets have developed a strong following throughout the world. Berger's new Classic Hunter Series was developed in an effort to merge the desirable traits inherent within the company's target bullet designs with the characteristics hunters are looking for. In the past, the Berger Classic Hunter bullets were available in a few choices ranging from 6mm up to and including .30 calibre, but that line has now been expanded to include a new 135-grain 6.5mm, a 140-grain .270 calibre and a 150-grain 7mm bullet. Berger has also expanded their line of Elite Hunter bullets with three new choices to select from: 140-grain 6.5mm, 175-grain 7mm and 180-grain .30 calibre.

Sierra has also added 10 new choices to their popular Tipped MatchKing bullet line, including: two new .224 diameters in 69-grain and 77-grain, one new 6mm 95-grain, a new 6.5mm 130-grain, a new 7mm 160-grain and five new .30 calibres – 125, 155, 168, 175 and 196 grains. While the MatchKing line of bullets is recognized for their fine record-

setting accuracy, in most cases they are not generally recommended for hunting purposes.

Now available for the first time as a handloading component are the famed Trophy Bonded Tip bullets from Federal Premium. These bullets are of a bonded boat-tail construction and come with a solid copper shank and a polymer tip. They are sold in boxes of 50 bullets and are currently available in two weight choices in three calibres: .270 calibre, 130 and 140 grains; 7mm, 140 and 150 grains; and .30 calibre, 165 and 180 grains.

#### METALLIC RELOADING DIES

Redding is one of the most progressive die manufacturers in the business today, and as such they are constantly adding new die sets to their already expansive line. Most recently, they have added the 22 Nosler to their National Match Die Set, joining the 204 Ruger, 223 Rem., 243 Win., 260 Rem., 7mm/08, 308 Win., 30-06, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 Grendel, 6.8 SPC and 300 BLK. In addition, they are offering die sets for the new 33 Nosler cartridge, including standard full length, standard neck and deluxe sets.

#### METALLIC RELOADING PRESSES

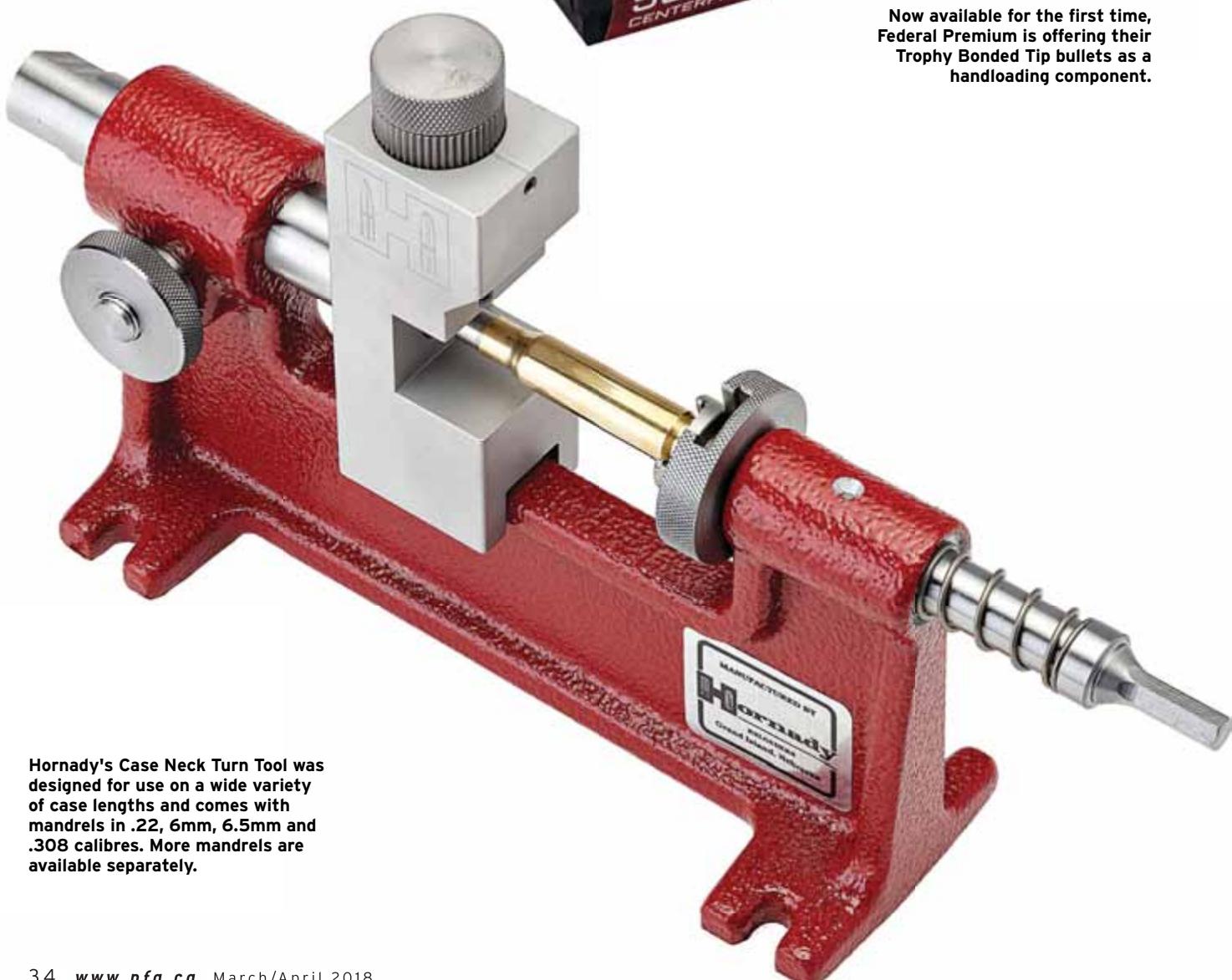
Many handloaders prefer the simplicity inherent in a basic single-stage

Sierra's new bullet additions include  
a diverse collection of calibres,  
designs and weights.





Now available for the first time,  
Federal Premium is offering their  
Trophy Bonded Tip bullets as a  
handloading component.



Hornady's Case Neck Turn Tool was designed for use on a wide variety of case lengths and comes with mandrels in .22, 6mm, 6.5mm and .308 calibres. More mandrels are available separately.



**Lyman's new Turret Press holds up to eight dies, either two complete sets of four dies or four two-die sets.**

press design and Lyman has several new presses to choose from. The Brass Smith C-Frame design is offered as an introductory press and has the capability of handloading cartridges up to 3.7 inches (94 millimetres) in length. This is a compact press that utilizes a minimal amount of bench space.

The Brass Smith Victory, which the company has characterised as being the "Workhorse for the Reloading Bench," comes in a heavy-duty cast iron O-style frame with a one-inch-diameter ram. These features, coupled with its compound linkage, lead Lyman to claim it is one of the most rugged and rigid presses on the market today. It has a large, five-inch opening in order to load the largest of the magnum cartridges. Unlike many competitive presses, the Lyman Victory Press features a newly designed straight-line primer feed that

they claim is totally reliable and looks dead simple to use. By pushing the priming arm forward at the bottom of the ram, the user will experience a tight, precise and smooth operation. And for added safety, it features a heavy steel shield surrounding the primer tube.

And lastly, Lyman's Brass Smith 8-Station Turret Press comes with a heavy-duty cast iron frame and turret. The unique feature of being able to hold eight dies, either two complete sets of four dies or four two-die sets, is a unique and convenient characteristic of this press. Its primer feed is also of straight-line construction, with primer tubes for either large or small-size primers. It can be operated easily by either right or left-handed users and comes with a durable powder coat finish in Lyman's trademark orange colour. This press is available either as

a stand-alone product or is available in a kit that includes virtually everything you might need to get started reloading your own ammunition.

#### CASE PREPARATION

Hornady's new Case Neck Turn Tool was designed for use on a wide variety of case lengths and allows the user to use a drill to make neck turning faster and easier, while providing superior consistency and surface finish. An adjustment knob enables the user to choose detents from .0005-inch adjustment increments, or it can be used without the detent feature. With each tool, there are four mandrels included in the popular calibres of .22, 6mm, 6.5mm and .308. Additional mandrels are available to purchase separately, which cover a broad spectrum of choices from .17 all the way up to and

including the big .375 calibre.

One of the problems associated with the new era of ultrasonic wet cleaning of cartridge cases is the fact that the brass must be thoroughly dried before it can be reloaded. Lyman has addressed those concerns with their new Cyclone Case Dryer. This dryer comes with a capacity for drying up to 1,000 .223 cases or up to 2,000 9mm cases at a single time. A timer is built in that can be set for up to three hours of drying time, and the trays have recessed handles for easy loading and unloading. While designed primarily for drying cartridge cases, the Lyman Cyclone can be used equally well for drying gun parts.

RCBS's new Brass Boss makes processing your cartridge cases more efficient and easier. This is a powered unit consisting of six stations and six variable speeds. This unit has the capacity for inside VLD chamfering, deburring the outside of the case necks, primer pocket cleaning (large and small), military crimp removal (large and small), brushes in four diameters for cleaning case necks and the Brass Boss even comes with a tub of dry neck lubricant.

#### DIE STORAGE

If you handload several different cartridges, storage of your reloading dies and ease of access to those dies can become a problem. Redding has addressed those concerns in a convenient way with their new storage rack. This is a tiered display design allowing for up to three levels of die storage, each of which can be used to store multiple dies. An assortment of spacers is included which allows the dies to be stored upright with no possibility of damage to the decapping rods and ensuring all die adjustments are preserved.

#### POWDER HANDLING

Redding Reloading Equipment has introduced their fourth in a series of Weight Range Specific Measurers. Called the Competition PR-50, this tool is dedicated to the precision shooting market and to specific cartridges. For many years, manufacturers have designed their powder measures in a do-it-all design, even though many people believe the greatest measuring precision and repeatability is found within a tool's sweet spot. And when

charges are thrown outside of that range, the consistency of those charges suffers. Redding believes that having a powder measure designed and engineered to a specific range of weights provides better overall consistency. The new Competition PR-50 comes with a "sweet spot" measuring range of 35 to 75 grains of most powders. It also comes equipped with a precision ground drum, a honed metering chamber and a unique hemispherical micrometer adjustable plunger, which virtually eliminates powder voids caused when using long grain powders.

The Hornady Vibratory Powder Trickler takes powder handling to a new level of accuracy and efficiency. Power to the trickler is provided by two AAA batteries and features settings to trickle all kinds of powder effectively via speed settings of high, low and variable. It features a LED screen and comes with a removable weighted base for extra stability.

Those are my choices for the most noteworthy handloading products at SHOT. If you're a serious handloader, I'm betting there's something in this list you just can't live without. ♦

**Redding is one of the most progressive die manufacturers in the business and has now added the 22 Nosler to their National Match Die Set as well as offering die sets for the new 33 Nosler cartridge.**



# Which "Dillon" is Right for You?



**Square Deal "B"**

Dillon's Square Deal "B" was designed to produce large amounts of ammunition in the least possible time for just a little bit of money. At 300 to 400 rounds per hour, you can produce enough ammo for several pistol matches or practice sessions in just a few hours.



**RL 550C**

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**XL 650**

Dillon's XL 650 resulted from several years of listening to our customers expressing their fondest wishes. We took every good idea we and our customers ever had, tested them extensively, and then incorporated them all into the design of the XL 650.



**Super 1050**

The Super 1050 is Dillon's commercial grade loading machine, featuring a frame and crank assembly that provides increased stroke to accommodate long rifle cartridges, yet the handle stroke is at a minimum, meaning less work for the operator.

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# NANUK

## – MAKING THE CASE

BY KEN BAILEY

"Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door," essayist, philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson is reputed to have said in the late 1800s. This well-known adage paraphrases what he actually said, but the message was clear: society has a thirst for quality products and services, and will respond when improvements are made to what's currently available.

Nanuk, a brand of cases made by Canadian manufacturer Plasticase, is counting on Emerson's observation being as true today as it was a century-and-a-half ago. They believe they've built a better gun case, and are making the shooting community aware in hopes they'll beat a path to the company's doorstep in the Montreal suburb of Terrebonne.

Plasticase has been in the business of making plastic carrying cases since their inception in 1984, but it was only 10 years ago that their Nanuk brand was born.

For some 30 years, the gold standard in plastic, waterproof, virtually indestructible gun cases was Pelican Products. Their brand and products were recognized worldwide, they captured huge shares of both government and public business and, as there was no real competition in the marketplace, their product changed little over time. That lack of development was the crack that Plasticase needed. They recognized there was room for improvement in this market segment, and Nanuk was their better mousetrap.

I was introduced to Nanuk when, by chance, I shared a taxi one morning from my Las Vegas hotel to the 2017 SHOT Show. My cabmate was Frank Vitiello, VP of sales and marketing for Nanuk. We struck up a conversation and Frank invited me to check out his booth during the show. I did, and what I learned surprised me. Not only because I hadn't been previously aware of an established

Canadian company making gun cases, but also because the quality of those cases was so clearly evident at first inspection.

### MANUFACTURING

All Nanuk cases are manufactured at Plasticase's plant in Terrebonne. At the heart of their cases is a proprietary-engineered plastic resin called NK-7 that they developed in conjunction with their suppliers. It will withstand high-pressure impact and cold-weather abuse, both necessary attributes for shooters and hunters who travel and want the highest level of protection for their firearms. The waterproofing seal is designed to resist deformation and fatigue, and all cases carry an international protection rating of IP67. The first number (6) indicates that dust will not enter in sufficient quantity to interfere with the operation of the equipment; the second number (7) means that ingress of water in harmful quantity is not possible when the enclosure is immersed in up to one metre of water under defined conditions of pressure and time.

One of the common complaints of the Pelican case was their latches and that they can be difficult to open. So, Nanuk addressed this by developing what they call their PowerClaw latching system. This latch system makes opening a Nanuk case a simple, reliable and dependable affair, as is closing them. Every long case has integrated TSA-approved key locks in the latches. For those situations where padlocks are preferred, lock holes are provided – two on the small cases, four in the long cases. Other features of these design-rich cases include soft-grip handles that spring back into place once released and, in the case of the long cases, the inclusion of stainless steel no-fail axles which ensure the polyurethane wheels turn freely and consistently. ▶





PowerClaw latches are one of the differentiating benefits offered in Nanuk cases. Long cases include TSA-approved locks in addition to padlock eyelets.



Nanuk cases are built of a proprietary resin developed with suppliers and molded on site.

There are also clips for attaching a shoulder strap built into every case.

Inside each Nanuk case is a bed of high-density polyethylene that is removable and washable. I've never thought to wash the foam of my gun cases, but it's comforting to know that with a Nanuk case, at least, I could do it. Both pre-designed and customizable foam inserts are offered.

"We're very proud of the cases we offer," said Frank. "We've made every effort to respond to the needs of our customers in terms of the features they're seeking, and when they have suggestions for improvement, we listen. As one example, it was in response to customer requests that we reinforced our padlock eyelets with steel inserts."

Tired of the standard black colour of similarly-styled gun cases on the market? Nanuk offers six different colours, depending upon the model.

It's been said that the measure of quality for a product is revealed in the warranty a company offers. It says it all, then, that Nanuk offers a lifetime warranty on its cases although, as Frank reports, they have next to no cases come back because of manufacturing defects or case failures. Quality control is a priority for Nanuk, and the process includes three stages: during the injection-molding process, after a 24-hour cooling period, and upon final assembly of each case.

## PRODUCTS

Nanuk's gun cases are part of their broader Extreme Duty line-up of cases, which are designed to house a broad array of gear requiring the greatest level of protection – most often that's photographic, computer, drone and other similar delicate equipment. A number, however, have been designed specifically with firearms protection in mind.

Several of the firearms cases are described as being "plug and play," designed for specific models. As one example, the new-to-market 909 Glock Pistol Case is engineered to perfectly hold most Glock pistols, along with two magazines. The 909 Classic Pistol Case is pre-cut to accommodate many other popular handguns, including the venerable 1911, again with space for two magazines. Of course, you can always customize the foam to protect, transport and store virtually any handgun.

The 925 4-Up Pistol case holds four handguns and 10 magazines; the 935 6-Up accommodates six pistols and 10 magazines, with the option to customize the case to hold fewer guns and make



Nanuk cases are marketed to law enforcement, military and public users alike.

room for shooting accessories, such as hearing protection.

The 990 AR is engineered to fit a standard 36-inch AR-15, along with space for up to eight magazines. This case also holds a pistol and four handgun single or double-stack magazines. With a 44-inch interior length, the 990 can also be customized to accommodate many other rifles and is ideal for break-down shotguns.

#### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The company has plans to expand its offerings to the shooting fraternity. According to Frank, they plan to introduce 10 new models over the next two years. These will mostly be larger products, he advised, including firearm trunks and cases designed to accommodate longer rifles. They're also considering a case specifically for archery gear.

"The best use the best," Frank said,

"and that's our target audience. Our value proposition is simple: sleekness of design with a full range of value-added features. We consider this a professional product that competes on performance, not price, though we have managed to keep our price-point competitive."

When asked how a Canadian-made product can compete on pricing with those made off-shore, Frank was quick to respond.

"It's really not that difficult. Injection machines cost the same all over the world. And once you factor in the extra costs associated with off-shore production, including import taxes, transportation costs, currency exchange fees and more, it may actually be more economical to manufacture in Canada."

Nanuk currently distributes through a dealer-direct model, choosing to increase profit margins for dealers rather than absorb the costs of a middle distribution

layer. It appears to be working, slowly but surely, as they seek to build a wider audience; their products are currently sold in 52 countries worldwide.

"We're a well-kept secret to some extent," Frank noted. "But we're continually reaching out to the law enforcement, military, tactical and sporting markets. Word of mouth has been key. We know we have a premium product that we stand behind 100 per cent. Through our careful design, we've brought a new level of class and a non-military look to a product category that desperately needed change, while concurrently improving quality. We've managed to make gun cases sexy! Now it's simply a case of building our market share."

It appears that Nanuk has indeed built a better mousetrap. Whether the world will beat a path to their door remains to be seen, but even a beaten path evolves one footprint at a time. ♦

# DOPPLER FOR THE MASSES

LabRadar review

BY DEAN ROXBY

In the March/April 2017 issue of *CFJ*, I discussed several different chronograph technologies available for determining a bullet's velocity. That article was an overview of various technologies, rather than an in-depth review. It was not practical to do a thorough test of each type and brand, as attempting to do so would require more pages than the editor will give me. However, the LabRadar unit really does deserve a second, more detailed look. It is that good.

I had the good fortune to speak with the engineer behind the intriguing LabRadar chronograph during the 2017 SHOT Show in Las Vegas. Guy Desbiens, the president of Infinition Inc., the maker of the LabRadar unit, was able to explain some of the features to me. Marketed under the LabRadar brand name, it is made and assembled here in Canada by Infinition Inc. of Trois Rivieres, Que. Infinition has over 20 years of experience with ballistic instrumentation radar systems for military users, and now this same proven Doppler radar technology is available to us mere civilians.

The term Doppler radar refers to the Doppler effect, which in turn is named after Austrian physicist Christian Doppler. It refers to the change in frequency of a constant signal or wave when it is reflected from a moving object. The change in tone of a siren or train whistle as it passes by a listener is a common

example of the Doppler effect.

## THE BASICS

The first thing I noticed as I unpacked this unit is that it's solid. moulded from thick plastic, there is a solid, robust feel to the instrument. Very likely, this is due to Infinition's background in manufacturing for the military.

A detailed, 24-page manual is included, and while the unit is simple to use once your settings are chosen, I strongly recommend you read the manual first. You will need to get familiar with the various buttons, and then choose your preferences. These include velocity units (feet per second, yards per second, miles per hour, metres per second or kilometres per hour), distance units, weight units, ranging distance, bullet weight, etc. Although we Canadians are supposed to be fully metric now, almost all the web forums, reloading manuals and gun magazines (this one excepted!) are from the US, so we are conditioned to think in feet per second and grains weight. It is nice to have the metric option, though. The same manual can also be downloaded from the website, <http://mylabradar.com/>.

## SET UP

The real beauty of the LabRadar unit is its ease of set up. Once you have entered all your parameters into the unit, it is simply mounted to a tripod, positioned along side your firearm,

pointed towards the target downrange, armed and you are ready to fire.

The unit is triggered by a firearm's muzzle blast, so you will need to position it about one foot to the side of your muzzle. But don't worry that other shooters on the line will trigger the unit when they shoot. That doesn't happen.

For airguns, there is an optional microphone available. I don't yet have this accessory, but may purchase it soon. Speaking of airguns, with Canadian firearms law being what it is, it is vital that air gunners know whether their airguns exceed 500 feet per second (152.4 metres per second) or not. For archery, set the Trigger Source parameter to Doppler. The radar signal reflected off the rear of the arrow acts as the trigger in this setting.

It transmits in the K-band, similar to a police speed trap radar. There are 12 different channels (24.080 to 24.168 GHz, in eight MHz steps.) This is so that if there are other units in use at your range, you can avoid crosstalk interference issues.

As the bullet enters the area of microwave radar signal transmission, some of the radar waves are reflected back from the base of the bullet. As the bullet is moving, the frequency of the reflected signal is changed slightly. This allows the LabRadar to compute the velocity. Interestingly, it can do this over various distances. In fact, you can select five different distances from which to receive ▶





**Available accessories**  
include a microphone, USB  
cable, rechargeable power  
pack, bench stand, ball head  
mount and a carry bag.



data. Impressive! The first time I took it out, I found myself grinning and thinking, "This is cool!"

#### CAPABILITIES

The effective range is dependent on the bullet diameter, bullet base shape (boat-tail versus flat base) and power setting. The website suggests that .177 pellets can be tracked to about 30 yards, a .30-calibre bullet to around 100 yards and a 9mm or larger slug to about 130 yards. I was able to get 110 yards with a 458 Win Mag during my testing, so the numbers seem legit.

These distances are for the civilian model, of course. As might be expected, the power output and range are far less than the military units. One model shown on the Infinition website claims to be able to track a 5.56mm bullet up to 1,000 metres. But the power on this commercial civilian LabRadar version is limited by government regulations. Incidentally, units for sale in Canada, US, Australia and New Zealand are set to a higher power than units sold in the EU.

The velocity range is 65 to 3,900 feet per second, in three ranges: archery,

pistol and rifle. Note that if you are in the wrong velocity range, it will not record the velocity. I missed that detail at first. Fortunately, there is sufficient overlap between the three ranges to deal with ammunition that straddles the crossover point. Perhaps future versions will do away with the need to pre-select the appropriate velocity range. If so, then perhaps they could increase the maximum velocity beyond 3,900 feet per second, as well.

The data collected is recorded either on an SD card or in the built-in memory.



By entering the bullet weight, this unit will also give you power factor and kinetic energy.

The SD card allows you to transfer your data to a home computer later. A USB cord is included for the same purpose. This allows you to create Excel spreadsheets for various loads and guns. It also provides high, low, extreme spread and standard deviation data. By entering the bullet weight, it will give you power factor and kinetic energy, also. This is far more than just a chronograph! In fact, the advertising on the website and at their booth at SHOT proudly proclaims that this is not a chronograph at all. Well, of course it is... What it is not is an opti-

cal shadow sensor chronograph. As I noted in my previous article, the optical shadow type can be prone to errors due to misalignment, and changing light conditions. They also require the bullet pass over a fairly small zone to be recorded. The LabRadar is not concerned with any of these issues.

The unit is powered by 6 AA batteries, or an external rechargeable power pack (not supplied). I did notice that it chews through batteries, so bring extras, or get the power pack. Other accessories available for purchase include the airgun

microphone trigger mentioned earlier, a base plate for tabletop use and a canvas carry bag. The instrument is covered by a one-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship.

Simple set up, no need for diffuser screens or auxiliary lights, a large shooting window and some great additional software data make this a winner. Be forewarned though, this technology comes at a price. The US price is \$559.95, or from Canada's Hirsch Precision at \$750 for the basic unit. The accessories are priced individually. 



# One Gun's Story

Mike Kelly

## The Full Circle Cooey



The Cooey shotgun has seen a lot of miles over the years.

I am continually amazed by the emotion an inanimate object can elicit. Sometimes the mere sight of an old ball glove, religious icon or childhood toy gives people pause or causes them to stir. They recall pleasant times, past exploits, or perhaps memories of loved ones who have since passed. I can relate; I feel this same emotional response when I handle an old Cooey shotgun given to me as a boy.

It was the summer of 1981 and my father, with a young family, started working in the coal mines. But much to his dismay, the mines shut down in late summer and the miners went on strike. It was a dirty strike, with both sides becoming entrenched as the cold North Atlantic winter loomed. This was a bad year to be a coal miner on Cape Breton Island.

### FIRST LOOK

Early that fall, my uncle Bernie, a police chief in the next town, sent word that he would like to see me. So, the next day I peddled my bike up to visit. My uncle produced a worn but mechanically sound, break-action, single-shot 12-gauge Cooey shotgun. It was a beauty! The 30-inch barrel gave it great balance, it was light, the action was tight and ironically the serial number ended with the time I had to be at school, "...845." He asked if I thought, with my several days of hunting experience, if it would be a good gun for him to use during the upcoming hunting season. I felt it would be the perfect all-around gun and told him so. In fact, I went so far as to tell him I had been saving up for almost a year to get Dad to buy me just such a gun. Even as a boy I knew with the strike on, it was going to be a lean winter, and Mom would appreciate the extra meat it could help procure. A deer in the deep freeze would be a great help to the family.

My uncle told me he was not interested in selling such a fine piece, but asked if I was interested in refinishing

the stock. He knew I had done some refinishing for family and asked if I would refinish the gun for him. I agreed to do it, as my uncle had always been good to me. The next weekend I got to working on the gun and decided I would try a finishing technique I had read about at the library. I made some very unique stain for the stock and I tinted the finish with dyes used to tint paint. The results, I thought, were exceptionally beautiful, although others I showed the stock to didn't seem as thrilled about the colour as I was.

The next week, with hunting season around the corner, the gun was ready, so Dad drove me up to uncle Bernie's to give him his gun. He didn't seem as ecstatic about the stock colour as I was, but felt the finish was well done and would protect the wood. He then asked me another favour: if I would take the gun out a few times with my Dad and test fire it. He gave me a bunch of birdshot, buckshot and four boxes of slugs. He didn't have to coax me too hard to get me to shoot all his shells!

On the eve of small game season, and with deer season two weeks away, I once again delivered my uncle Bernie his refinished shotgun, complete with test patterns and targets. Turned out the gun was a real shooter! I could keep all my slugs on paper plates out to 100 yards. And boy, was that choke tight. Aiming at the tips of the ears of a rabbit would result in head shots I was sure, putting few pellets into the meat. He truly lucked out with this gun, I thought.

But when I delivered it back to him, he didn't accept it, saying he was busy at work and had no time that fall to hunt. He asked if I would mind keeping the gun and take it out hunting with my Dad. I was speechless. It was exactly what I wanted.

I used that old Cooey for years and shot a lot of game with it. It came with me to university, and on my travels thereafter. I bought other shotguns, but for reliability and portability this was the shotgun I reached for. The gun served me well.

#### PASSING IT ON

Shortly after I returned home to Cape Breton as an adult, a distant cousin approached me, asking if I knew where he could get a used shotgun. The cousin lived in a remote part of the island



**This old shotgun is still helping to teach young hunters the basics of firearm handling and marksmanship.**

and near him there was a young man of modest means snaring rabbits to augment the family income. He felt, especially since coyotes were becoming an issue, the young man should have a shotgun with him on the trail. I went to visit my uncle Bernie, since retired, to

ask his opinion on the matter. In short order, the young man found himself in possession of an old Cooey 12-gauge shotgun with a very unique stock.

Years later, I was in a work meeting and at the end of the meeting, the lady sitting across the table recognized my



The author's son, Nathan, left, and his cousin, Ben, spent some time shooting clays after a day snowboarding.

name. When I asked how, she told me a story of how her husband received a Cooey shotgun from a man in his local area. The man, my distant cousin, said he had contacted my family and it was given to him for the young man to use years before. Her husband was very appreciative that someone he didn't even know helped him out. I told her the story of how the gun came into my possession years before, by someone helping me out.

After my son was born, I met the lady again by chance. I asked her about the

old Cooey and told her I would buy it if her husband was interested in selling it. I was looking for a shotgun for my growing boy to shoot and I felt the old single-shot Cooey, with reduced power loads, would be perfect. Also, the gun had sentimental value for me. She did some inquiring and learned it had been given to another family, to help out in the same manner, and unfortunately its whereabouts were now unknown. So, I started the quest for a quality, long-barreled Cooey, like the one given to me by my uncle all those years ago.

#### FULL CIRCLE

I called most of the gun shops in Atlantic Canada, with little luck. Some had cheap clones, but I wanted the quality of those now-obsolete Cooeys. My friend, Peter, kept telling me about a kayak shop in Catalone, Cape Breton, that sold guns, so one day the two of us ended up there after work. The owner, Nick, said he had a Cooey in the back room, but said it was beat up and the stock was ugly. Somebody who didn't know what they were doing apparently tried to refinish it long ago. When he produced the gun, I could feel tears welling up in eyes. I turned the gun over to read the serial number, and it ended with the time I had to be at school. It was the very same gun my uncle Bernie, who passed last winter, had given me all those years ago. The strong colour of the stock had faded to a more passive hue, and there were a few extra dents and scratches I didn't recognize, but there was no doubt. I bought it on the spot.

The older I get, the more I appreciate simple things like what my uncle did for me. He didn't just hand me something I wanted, he made me work for it. That's a sometimes-forgotten necessity in our consumeristic society. He also persuaded me to help a family member, and altruism is welcome in any family. Finally, he encouraged my outdoor pursuits and provided me with the tools to actively participate in the hunting sports. Uncle Bernie, I believe, had his priorities aligned correctly, and we should be following his lead. If we want a nation of independent youth that work toward achieving goals and are confident with firearms and the outdoors, it is our job as adults to work towards that end.

Next spring, my son will be old enough to take his hunter safety course and come fall will be hunting alongside me, and perhaps Peter and his son, David. He will be using an old, beat-up 12-gauge his Dad found somewhere cheap. He asked to cut the stock down and put a pad on it, so him and his friends, with their parents' permission and under my instruction, could shoot it comfortably. I'm also going to get my son to refinish that ugly stock for me, and maybe pattern the gun. I'm sure next hunting season, over a campfire on the trail, I will tell him the true story of that beat-up old shotgun and I hope he will pass the story on to his children in the same manner. ♦

# MATADOR ARMS' FURY GRIP

BY WALLY FONG



Nolan and Anika Scott tell me they work on the philosophy of building the best product at the best price point. Nothing fancy, just hard work, great ideas, and thinking first about what the customer wants and is willing to pay for. That, in a nutshell, is what they say the essence of Matador Arms is about.

While Matador Arms has only been on the Canadian gun scene for a few years, they have made a name for themselves, especially around the SKS platform. If you are an SKS enthusiast with an upgrade on your rifle, there's a good chance that part was made by Matador Arms. The success of their Sabertooth SKS chassis and accompanying accessories have garnered a loyal following for their products.

Never one to rest on their laurels, Nolan and Anika have diversified their offerings to cover a wide variety of firearms, including the Ruger 10/22, Glock, Kriss Vector, AR and 7.62-calibre platforms. One of their accessories that

has kicked up a lot of interest is their skeletonized aluminum grip for the AR platform. Called the Cage Fat Grip, it's an elegantly designed replacement for the traditional A2 pistol grip. It has a distinct design and beefy palm swell that guarantees a good purchase on the grip every time.

But not wanting to sit on their hands, the folks at Matador Arms went back to the drawing board and, based on the feedback from their customer base, crafted a worthy follow up to the Cage grip. This spawned their sophomore effort in the pistol grip game, the Fury.

Based on user feedback of the Cage grip, Nolan went on to refine the design to include a slightly shallower cant angle with a more rounded grip, while reducing the overall palm swell size. While the Cage had distinct finger grooves on the front of the grip, the Fury just has one for the middle finger. This allows for a little more wiggle room for finger placement, which may not be as apparent with bare hands, but if you're using the grip

outside in cold weather and have to wear gloves, this may change where you index your fingers.

At first glance, you may think the triangular, oval and bracket shapes cut into the grip are just a cool visual, but they do have a purpose. First, it cuts the weight of the grip down to three ounces. That is actually 0.5 ounces lighter than the Cage grip, which is surprising because the Fury grip looks meatier than the Cage. Second point, and this may not apply to everyone, I find my finger tips index onto the cut outs in the grip. This gives me a positive and repeatable feel every time. And it's a good feeling – like putting on a pair of well-worn leather gloves, it fits perfectly every time.

The Fury grip comes in black or bare brushed aluminum. I'm hoping for more colours in the near future, but for now those two will do just fine.

Matador Arms is based out of Calgary, Alta., and you can check out more of their products at [www.matadorarms.com](http://www.matadorarms.com).



# Team NFA

By Matt Neumann

## The Quiet Eye



Take a second to acknowledge your favourite athlete or role model from the past or present. Now consider that no elite athlete or successful human got to the top without putting in serious work. Not one. Even a star like LeBron James played basketball every day for 10 years before he became the youngest player to win the NBA Rookie of the Year Award at age 20.

Elite athlete's stories always start with he or she taking two hours each morning before school to shoot free throws, or spending an hour each day dry firing their rifle at a black dot on the wall before bed, or washing dishes on Saturday night to pay for a training camp or race weekend. Now, not all of us are cut

out to be professional basketball players, but I'm willing to bet if you're reading this you are interested in becoming a better shooter!

I have spent the last 18 years "interested" in becoming a better shooter. If I'm not busy tuning my craft, I am typically occupied with coaching the craft to young athletes. I work with ages ranging from 10 to 16 years in Canada's largest biathlon program, the Foothills Nordic Ski Club. There are few more rewarding jobs than teaching Canada's up-and-comers and watching them grow from rugrats into elite shooters.

The concept I am eager to introduce to you assumes you have passed the rugrat stage in shooting experience.

As we develop as shooters, physical movements become a subconscious reaction as natural as taking a breath of air. When we are developing a foreign skill for the first time, our brains are conscious and actively working through the process. When nerve pathways are efficient, we don't have to make a conscious decision to squeeze the trigger because we've trained it thousands of times and know the movement inside and out. A firm grip on the specific shooting fundamentals relevant to each discipline is required for this concept to be most effective. As we progress, the areas for improvement gradually decrease until one day we are left scratching our heads wondering what to do.



**Trap shooting is a perfect example of an aiming sport that requires processing pertinent information before successfully intercepting the clay.**

next. "Quiet eye" is a trait that separates the elite performers from the sub-elite performers and proper implementation may just be the "a-ha moment" to help you get there!

Quiet eye (QE) is a visual phenomenon explaining gaze behaviour in aiming sports immediately before a shot is taken. The concept was originally proposed right in my backyard at the University of Calgary by professor Joan Vickers (1996). Vickers' observations on QE originated from studying elite golfers while putting, and the concept has since become paramount to other aiming sports. For context, Vickers defined QE as the final fixation on a location that is within three degrees of visual angle for a minimum 0.1 seconds. The quiet eye label is self-explanatory in that it refers to reduced eye movement, however significant subconscious activity contributes to its proper execution. During Vickers' study, she observed that elite performers execute more efficient and steady gaze behaviours compared to sub-elite performers. It is worth noting that this aiming fixation was also prolonged when executed by the experts. Through this study, Vickers was able to successfully identify the QE as a common trait distinguishing elite performers from the sub-elite.

Trap shooting is a perfect example of an aiming sport that requires process-

ing pertinent information before successfully intercepting the clay. In trap's various forms, increased processing time (QE) allows for maximum cognitive recognition, allowing our brains to take in more information, which in turn optimizes the opportunity to accomplish the task (hitting the clay). All this information is acknowledged on a subconscious level in a small amount of time. Trap shooting requires unique orienting and visual control skills due to the nature of the target being projected away from the shooter. Consequently, the shooter is under a time restraint, as the probability of interception decreases as the target size decreases.

What is our brain processing in the QE period? Each shooting sport has unique challenges, but all aiming sports require a successful QE gaze period to consistently execute.

Remember, elite shooters have a relative prolonged QE period to ensure maximum processing time. In trap shooting, this means setting the final movement parameters, target recognition, processing wind or environmental factors, trajectory, smooth direction tracking, observing speed of clay compared to gun barrel, target fixation and eye stabilization before executing the appropriate response. If we were to observe several hundred shots over

a competition, an elite shooter would process the trajectory information of the clay earlier and could therefore afford a longer duration than his or her sub-elite competitors. An earlier onset and prolonged duration of QE would also be present when comparing an individual's successful shots with unsuccessful misses, regardless of ability. The onset of QE is relative, but if comparing elite to sub-elite performers, we'd see both groups would still be operating within the confines of a single second. Elite shooters would demonstrate a better anticipation before the release of the clay and would be capable of attending to the most critical cues to execute the correct movement sooner.

The result of Vickers' study is relevant when applied to all aiming sports, and as a result, all shooting disciplines. Next time you're on the range, consider your own quiet eye and what information you believe to be important. If your discipline is time pressured (biathlon, skeet, trap, hunting), successful QE will revolve around subconsciously processing significant information in a small, restricted window of time. Remember, subconscious behaviour can be trained and modified; it just requires doing some tough and precise training. As my first shooting coach told me, "Perfect practice makes perfect."



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Goodbye Amnesty, Hello Grace Period



For the time being, keeping that firearms licence in effect is the only thing that stands between being a law-abiding gun owner, and becoming a criminal in the eyes of the Canadian legal system.

In recent weeks, there have been two important legislative changes affecting gun owners that have gone largely unnoticed. Yet, it is important that you be aware of these changes, if you want to stay on the right side of the law.

Both changes have to do with the possibility that you may be prosecuted for remaining in possession of firearms after your licence has expired. Let me remind you that in Canada, possession of a firearm without a valid licence (or registration certificate, whenever applicable) is a criminal infraction. Licenses have a finite duration. They are valid for five years and expire on the licence holder's birthday. If you never paid attention to the expiry date of your licence, now is a good time to do so.

### THE END OF THE AMNESTY

The first such legislative change has to do with the so-called licence amnesty that had been in effect, in one form or another, for the past several years. In essence, several years ago, and more or less annually since then, the Canadian government had passed a decree that exempted gun owners whose licence had expired from criminal prosecution. This measure only applied to

continuing possession of non-restricted firearms, by individuals whose PAL was once valid, but had expired at some point in time after Jan. 1, 2004. Further, it only applied to those who had taken steps to renew their licence.

The underlying amnesty period expired on Dec. 31, 2017. Hence, any person whose licence (PAL) has expired and who remains in possession of firearms after Dec. 31, 2017, is liable to be criminally prosecuted, unless they fall within the new grace period.

### THE GRACE PERIOD

In June 2015, the Harper government passed Bill C-42, also known as the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*. One of the key aspects of Bill C-42 was the creation of a six-month grace period, following the expiry of a gun licence. Unbeknownst to most people, the underlying amendments to the *Firearms Act* had not yet come into effect. The amendments creating the so-called grace period have finally been put into effect as of Nov. 30, 2017. The exact reason or justification for the two-and-a-half-year delay is unknown.

This grace period extends the validity of all gun licenses by six months, but only insofar as it grants immunity

from prosecution for illegal possession of a firearm. During the six-month grace period, the licence holder may not acquire additional firearms or even ammunition. He may not even transport restricted firearms, because the amendments clearly state that authorizations attached to the licence as "conditions" thereto are not similarly extended. First and foremost, that includes the Authorization to Transport that is attached to your firearms licence as a condition. Although this remains to be confirmed, a gun owner who would transport restricted firearms during the grace period could arguably be prosecuted under either s. 93 (Possession at an Unauthorized Place), or s. 94 of the *Criminal Code* (Unauthorized Possession in Motor Vehicle).

There are significant differences between the former amnesty regime, and the current grace period.

Understanding those differences is key to staying on the right side of the law. Here is an overview of the key differences:

1. Unlike the amnesty, the grace period has a limited duration, which is six months. Beyond those six months, the gun owner whose licence is expired becomes fair game for criminal prosecution;
2. The grace period applies to the continuing possession of all types of firearms, whether non-restricted, restricted or prohibited;
3. The grace period applies irrespective of whether the gun owner has commenced the process of renewing his/her firearms licence;
4. The grace period ends as soon as the six-month period has expired;

Arguably, the fact that a renewal application is pending does not, per se, extend the grace period until the new licence is issued. It is unclear, at this time, whether the Canadian Firearms Program will continue its existing practice not to crack down on

individuals whose licence is expired, but have a pending licence application. The latter practice may have been a direct result of the now defunct amnesty regime. Hence, it will be important (and prudent) for gun owners who wish to remain in possession of their firearms to file an application to renew as soon as they realize that their firearms licence may have expired; or better yet, before it does!

The status of individuals whose licence expired prior to Nov. 30, 2017, but less than six months ago, is unclear. They may or may not be saved by the grace period. One thing is for sure: after Dec. 31, 2017, they may no longer be saved by the amnesty.

#### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GRACE PERIOD ENDS

There will undoubtedly be circumstances where the grace period will expire before the licence is renewed. A person for whom the grace period is about to expire would be well advised not to remain in possession of firearms. At that point, two options

would be available: either a transfer to a person with the required licence, or putting the firearms in storage with an outfit duly licensed to do so under the *Firearms Act*. If restricted firearms or prohibited firearms are involved, the latter option may be tricky, since the existing Authorization to Transport is no longer valid. In such an event, the individual concerned will have to apply for an Authorization to Transport with the provincial chief firearms officer, in order to take the restricted/prohibited firearms to the licensed storage facility. Keep in mind that no such authorization can be issued once the grace period has expired.

At that point (once the grace period is over), you will either receive notification that your registration certificates are revoked, or the local cops may decide to pay you a visit and leave with some of your precious belongings. They may also offer you a ride to the station in their cruiser, as well as room and board for the night; or they might just leave you with a written invitation to see a

judge at a later date.

As you may fathom, none of these things are good. Further, should you be charged with and convicted of illegal possession of a firearm, the court may decide to issue a discretionary firearms prohibition order, under s. 110 of the *Criminal Code*. Further, your firearms will be confiscated and ordered destroyed, under s. 491 of the *Criminal Code*.

#### WORDS OF WISDOM

The best advice I can give you is to pay attention to the expiry date of your firearms licence and apply for its renewal with time to spare. Do not wait for a reminder from the Canadian Firearms Program, because none may be received. Do not count on the grace period either, because it is a less-than-perfect safeguard. For the time being, keeping that firearms licence in effect is the only thing that stands between being a law-abiding gun owner, and becoming a criminal in the eyes of the Canadian legal system. ♦

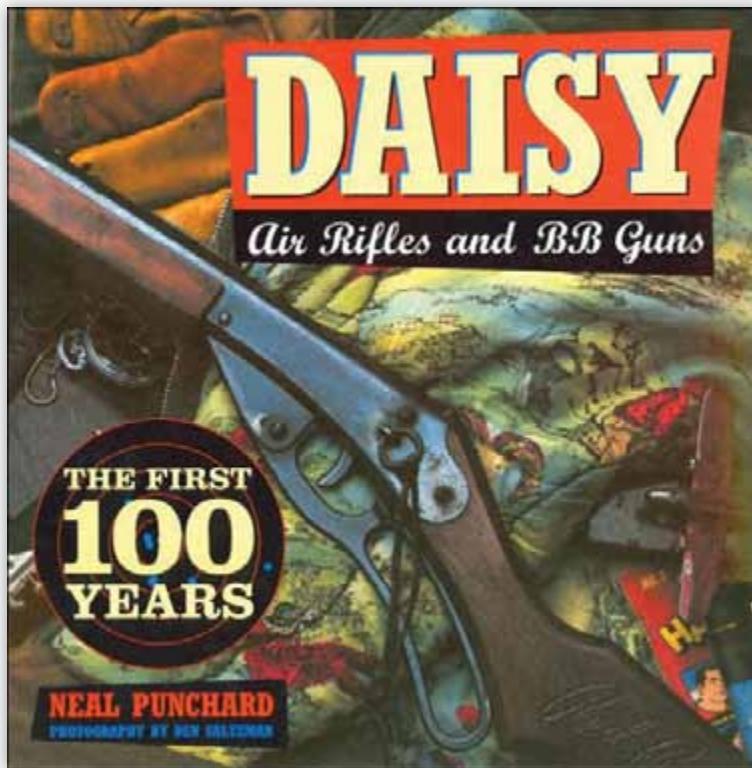
## LIBERAL PRIORITIES....



# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## Daisy Air Rifles And BB Guns



The cover of *DAISY Air Rifles and BB Guns* will catch the eye of all boys, regardless of their age. After all, a wood-stocked Daisy Red Ryder carbine complete with saddle ring and leather thong is the most recognizable BB rifle of the 1940 to 1960 era. Memories of long ago will be rekindled in those of us who are now grandfathers, and curiosity aroused in the youngest generation.

*DAISY Air Rifles and BB Guns* features rifles, pistols, scopes, advertising and accessories offered by Daisy from 1888 to 1987. Initial browsing at the more than 300 high-quality colour photographs is a virtual tour of the author's lifelong collection. Settling down to read this book is an educational and thoroughly enjoyable experience. While never intended to be a collector's encyclopedia, the reader will be fascinated by the variety of Daisy products shown.

The book begins with an informative introduction outlining the corporate history of the Daisy Manufacturing

Company. Its evolution from the Plymouth Iron Windmill Company to the highly successful manufacturer of Daisy merchandise was guided by shrewd businessmen. Sports figures, American heroes and comic-strip characters such as Red Ryder were used effectively to market Daisy products, from water pistols to BB rifles. The product line was continuously improved and many distinct variations were produced to capitalize on current American idols, including Buzz Barton and Buck Rogers. "Daisy" became one of America's most recognized brand names, synonymous with BB guns.

*DAISY Air Rifles and BB Guns* is divided into five chapters, each beginning with a brief introduction. These divisions are: *BB Rifles, BB Pistols, Toy Guns, Literature & Manuals, Accessories*. Each chapter shares 100 years of Daisy products in studio-quality photographs. The unique features and history of each item shown are described in concise paragraphs

placed near the picture. Locating a specific model of BB gun or accessory is easily accomplished using the index.

Daisy not only provided items for their customers to enjoy, but also, just as importantly, encouraged the safe handling and use of firearms through shooter education programs they offered. Daisy also introduced unique models, such as the 2299 Quick Skill, which was initially used as a training tool by the army to develop instinctive shooting skills.

After reading *DAISY Air Rifles and BB Guns*, one will no doubt reflect on their own experiences with Daisy products. Memories of the BB rifle they cherished in their early years will be recalled, along with the many hours spent shooting with Dad, brothers and friends. Those moments generated our love of firearms of all types. Over the years, we graduated to more expensive and powerful firearms, but never forgot that Daisy.

Author Neal Punchard describes himself as a lifelong Daisy enthusiast, shooter and collector. He indicates that he may author another book on the items produced by Daisy after the first 100 years. An interesting inclusion would be Daisy BB rifles and accessories produced in Preston, Ont.

*DAISY Air Rifles and BB Guns* is highly recommended, as it will provide hours of enjoyment for all firearm enthusiasts. Current list price is \$35 USD, but it can be located for less online. Check first with your local book retailer. ✓

**Title:** Daisy Air Rifles and BB Guns

**Author:** Neal Punchard

**Photography:** Ben Saltzman

**Publisher:** MBI Publishing Company 2002, current edition – Crestline 2013

**ISBN:** 978-0-7858-2992-8

**Pages:** 156

**Size:** Hard cover with dust jacket, 10.5 by 10.5 inches

**Illustrations:** Colour



# 2018 AGM

**HOMewood SUITES by Hilton – Hamilton, ON**  
**\$45/person**

**Friday May 11, 2018 7pm – 10pm**

- **Meet and Greet** – mingle with the Directors and other activists

**Saturday May 12, 2018 9am – 10pm**

- **AGM** – 9am -12:00am
- **Open Panel Discussion with special guests** – 1:30pm - 5pm
- **Banquet (Evening dinner)** – 6pm - 10pm

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