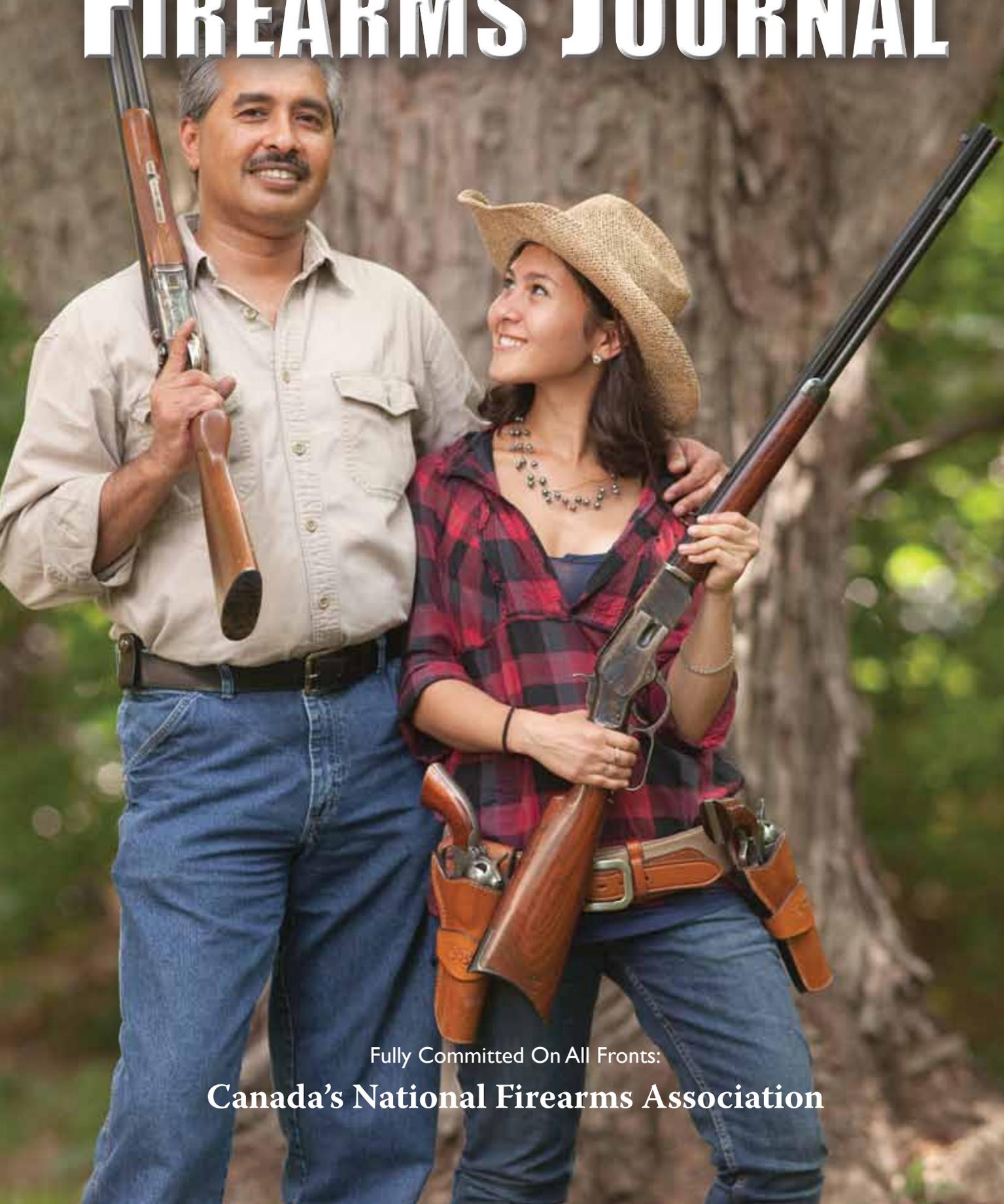


March/April 2012

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FIREARMS JOURNAL



Fully Committed On All Fronts:

Canada's National Firearms Association

Around the NFA...



Canada's National Firearms Association Annual General Meeting 2012

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Join us in Woodstock for the 2012 Annual General Meeting of Canada's National Firearms Association.

Friday May 4

Meet and Greet - mingle with the Directors and other activists

Saturday May 5

Information and training sessions, AGM, Evening dinner with door prizes

Sunday May 6

Special activities

Special guests will include among others, *Alan Gottlieb* of the CCRKBA and *Alan Korwin* of the Bloomfield Press/Gunlaws.com.

More information and a detailed agenda will be posted on our website www.nfa.ca

Please register early to help us plan arrangements. The first ten members to register will receive two extra tickets for a door prize. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Donations to support this event are gratefully appreciated.

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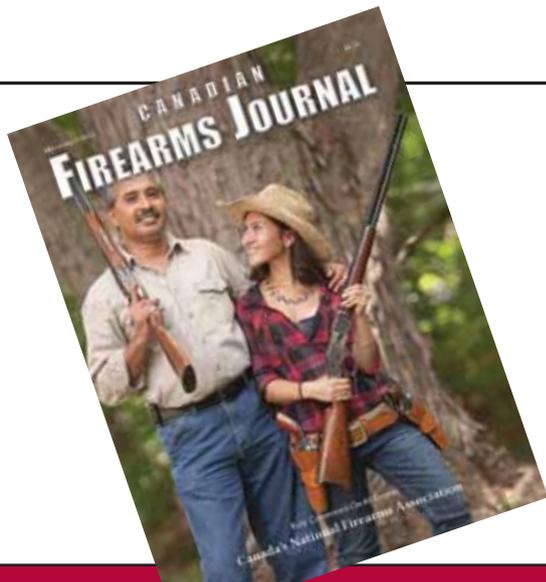
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On The Cover

Gun control precipitates genocide. We need look no further than the estimated 262 million murdered by despots and tyrants during the 20th century alone. However, before a government can massacre its people, they must first be disarmed. We've seen this pattern repeated time and again over the last century. It is not surprising that the most ardent supporters of current United Nations gun control initiatives, including its sweeping Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), are dictatorial non-democratic regimes.

As outrageous as it seems, under the guise of protecting civilians, the United Nations continues to promote legislation that aims to remove ordinary sporting arms from the hands of civilians globally. Denied the tools to protect themselves, such civilians find themselves at the mercy of some of the most repressive governments and worst human-rights violators on the planet.

It is not surprising that "New Canadians" are one of the fastest growing demographics within our recreational firearms community. Having been denied the basic right to possess a firearm in their country of birth, most deeply appreciate the rights and freedoms granted them by virtue of Canada's democracy. One of the most treasured of these is the simple right to own a firearm. Our firearms community continues to be strengthened and enriched by the addition of responsible firearms owners from such diverse backgrounds and origins.

Cover Photo by Oleg Volk

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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From The Editor's Desk



As CFJ editor, I've learned a lot over the past couple of years, including the simple truth that the old adage, "Rome wasn't built in a day," also applies to magazine publishing. Readers may have noticed the change-over to our new publishing schedule last issue. Alas, not everyone got the message, and so the print edition of the new January/February issue was mislabelled "2011." The necessary corrections have been made for the on-line edition; unfortunately, the error wasn't caught in time for the print edition. Our apologies for any confusion this oversight may have caused.

I would be remiss in not saying that I think we've managed to put together one of our most balanced offerings in recent memory with this issue. Of course, it is always a delicate balancing act; picking and choosing what articles see print and which ones are reserved for a later issue. I hope you enjoy it as much as did putting it together. As always, please keep those E-mails, faxes and letters coming, we love hearing from our readers and we read everyone that comes in. We only wish we had the time to respond to each individually!

In this issue, many of your favourite regulars are back. Jesse Hardin returns with Western Lawmen and his profile of "Bear River" Tom Smith. I had no idea what a tough hombre Smith was, or just how high he'd raised the bar as a boomtown marshal. Unquestionably, he proved himself a man to "ride the river with."

Our own Bill Rantz is also back with his NFA Book Shelf, and a review of "The Government Models." Having just celebrated its centennial, the 1911 pistol has never been more popular. This is one volume any aficionado of Mr. Browning's crowning achievement should not be without.

Charles Schafer then weighs in on the thorny subject of suppressed firearms. Many

jurisdictions in Europe make suppressors a legal requirement for hunters, and even the most causal of target shooting, in order to minimize "noise pollution." Their use is also rapidly growing in popularity with American shooters, where their ownership remains somewhat restricted, but still within the grasp of the average shooter willing to pay the ATF's \$200 tax stamp. Unfortunately, Canadian law continues to prohibit their use or possession by law-abiding shooters in this country. Perhaps it is time we finally addressed this silly ban, especially, as more and more once remote gun clubs are forced to contend with the threat of potential closure, because of out-of-control residential sprawl that is threatening to engulf their long-established shooting ranges.

With the lack of an effective United Nations response to the brutal, state-sponsored oppression of Syrian nationals by the Assad government, Gary Mauser returns with a timely analysis of the issue of genocide, gun control and the UN. Without access to small arms, the spread of democracy and the much vaunted "Arab Spring" would've been a non-starter. Yet, the UN and its supporters remain hell-bent on stripping individuals of their right to keep and bear arms in their own defence. The plight of Syria's people and the UN's refusal to take an active part in ending the genocide of the Assad regime provides clear evidence of just how empty promises of protection from the international community are in the 21st century.

Now juxtapose Syria with the case of Libya. From rusty surplus Mausers, to Cold War-era battle rifles like the FN-FAL and HK G-3, to modern assault rifles like the AK-47, M-16 and G-36, Libya's freedom fighters were armed with an eclectic mix of obsolete, obsolescent and cutting-edge small arms that allowed them to stand-off the brutal attacks of their desperate dictator and his technically and numerically

superior army. NATO air power granted them the breathing room they needed to regroup and counterattack, but it was the individual citizen-soldier with a rifle in his hands that ended the reign of terror of Moammar Ghadafi.

Canadians should be wise to remember the trials and tribulations of the Libyan and Syrian peoples as we enter a post-C-19 reality. The long gun registry will be a thing of the past by spring's end, but our work is not done. The Liberal's C-68 Firearms Act remains virtually intact, and the prohibitions and reclassification of firearms continues under the guidance of the RCMP. The latest victim in the on-going RCMP anti-gun jihad is the rimfire Armi Jager AP-80, profiled in this issue's Legal Corner. As for what the future holds, NFA executives, Blair Hagen and Sheldon Clare both address important issues facing gun owners in the rapidly changing Canadian socio-political paradigm. Definitely two not to be missed!

Freelancer Al Voth joins us once more, offering his next instalment of the great "Gun Jobs" series. He also reports back on the 2012 SHOT show that just wrapped this past January in Las Vegas. My co-editor, Grayson, concludes TEAM NFA member Rob Engh's update on his European shooting tour last fall, and NFA member Thomas Lamont offer's his opinion on the issue of commonsense policing in the latest instalment of Member's Soapbox. Finally, our good friends Gary & Sybil Kangas provide readers with a fascinating glimpse into the Fenian invasion of Canada by Irish-American veterans of the American Civil War. While the premise sounds completely ludicrous today, truth is stranger than fiction and the invasion really happened. Enjoy!



THE GOVERNMENT MODELS

The Development of the Colt Model of 1911

Author: William H.D. Goddard

Andrew Mowbray Incorporated – Publishers

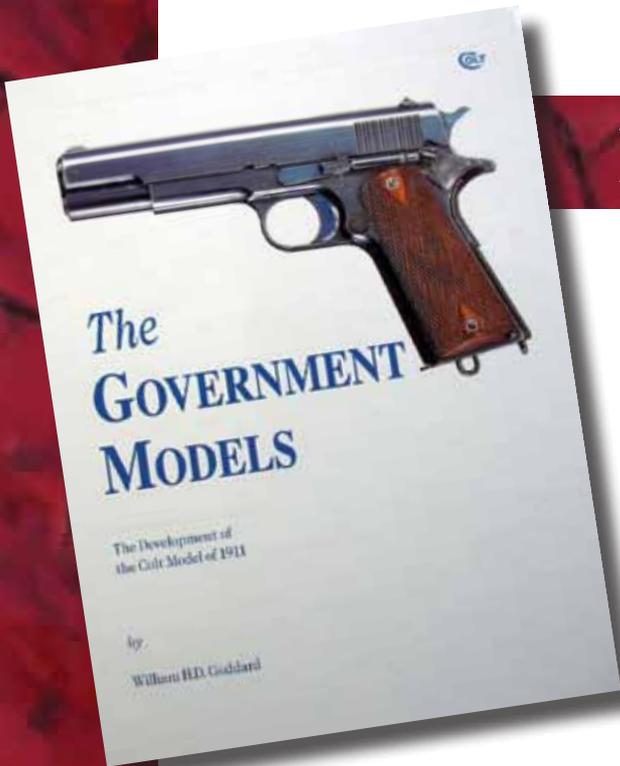
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293 pages

Black/White & Colour Photographs



The Colt Model of 1911 has long been one of the most recognizable handguns ever produced. The original prototype, a .38 rimless, manufactured by John M. Browning is believed to have been delivered to Colt in the winter of 1896-97. Over the next fifteen years there were various developments which culminated in the legendary design known as the Government Model of 1911.

William Goddard began collecting Colt Automatic Pistols in 1975. The following year he met Philip Levitt who was breaking up and selling his vast collection of rare and historic Colt automatic pistols. Goddard was able to accurately document the lineage of early Colt autos from the earliest prototype to the final version of the Government Model. This knowledge was the foundation upon which Goddard expanded by searching out new information from a variety of sources including museums, Colt factory documents, collector associations and individual collectors.

THE GOVERNMENT MODELS encourages the reader to fully appreciate the genius of John M. Browning, his relationship with the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company and the evolution of the Colt Model of 1911.

Over 70 significant variations of the 1911 Colt are shared with the reader in both illustrations and detailed text. All photographs are of the highest quality and in most cases both sides of the firearm are displayed. Pictures are large enough that one may easily read lettering or appreciate

minor differences between pistols.

The text describing the special features and significance of each variation is always found on the same page as the photograph. This enables the reader to quickly glance from text to firearm in order to fully comprehend the information presented by the author.

Unique to **THE GOVERNMENT MODELS** are 120 pages of data from the Colt factory records. In this section Serial number – Special features/notes, shipped to and shipping date are recorded in a three column table. Owners of a Colt automatic pistol will no doubt rush to see if information specific to their firearm is contained in the "Shipping Records".

A good friend of mine was elated when he discovered that his Colt 1911 was classed as "Special Order" and was one of the 5,503 pistols purchased by Canada with serial numbers between C465 and C13950. Such information is not only satisfying to a collector but also adds historic and monetary value to that specific Colt.

THE GOVERNMENT MODELS was originally published 24 years ago, yet it remains one of the most comprehensive books available on the legendary Colt automatic pistol. It is a highly informative reference book which will be a welcome addition to the library of any Colt enthusiast. **THE GOVERNMENT MODELS** is a quality hard cover publication available in the \$50 range.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Registration and Other Problems

by Sheldon Clare

The Conservatives have a problem. The government has committed to terminate the registration of long arms in the first 100 days of Parliament. By the time you read this column that time should have passed and registration should be gone. If that's the case we can be pleased that there has finally been some measure of rolling back Canada's regressive firearms laws.

However, the problem for the Conservatives is that the firearms community expects that there will be action on the rest of the Firearms Act. Despite the passionate arguments made in opposition by no less than Stephen Harper, among others, that Bill C-68 must be repealed, the recent spin has been that "all we committed to do was end registration." Unfortunately for the Conservatives, firearms owners are well aware that registration is probably one of the least egregious aspects of the Firearms Act.

The underlying philosophy that guns are bad and that some guns are really bad remains very much entrenched in government. The intensive activity by the RCMP Firearms Program to have more firearms listed as prohibited and restricted before the law changes is a strong indication of that situation. It is becoming clear that there are significant divisions in the Conservatives regarding firearms law. It is not a consistent approach to support additional policing resources and more punitive laws for gun crime, while at the same time advocating for improved individual rights and freedoms.

Many of us have thought that since we aren't criminals, then it is okay to support anti-crime agendas; however, when one realizes the sweeping nature of the laws that remain as part of the Criminal Code's Firearm Act, enhanced police powers look rather disconcerting. For an obvious example, it is clear that most firearms owners do not consider having an expired possession and acquisition license to be grounds for criminal charges and permanent loss of prohibited firearms, but that is what may happen

under our law - amnesties notwithstanding.

Yet, this has been the position in which gun owners find themselves since 1995, when the Liberals made it an actual crime under the Firearms Act to possess firearms in Canada without a license. With a stroke of the proverbial pen the Liberals transformed what most average citizens would normally regard as a simple administrative issue, arguably not even worthy of a token fine along the lines of a parking violation, into a serious criminal code offence with real jail time attached. This is unacceptable. Similarly, Kim Campbell's earlier legislation, Bill C-17 was also extremely damaging, and likewise deserves repeal. The guiding principle for firearms law reform must be that the peaceful possession of arms should not be a crime.

At the same time, gun control advocates continue to hold that preventing gun violence remains a legitimate argument for further gun bans, despite the lack of efficacy displayed by their flagship C-68 anti-gun legislation. But on the surface of it, who isn't against violence? Certainly, Canadian gun owners are one of the most law-abiding demographics in Canada and they remain outspoken critics of the criminal misuse of firearms. Note the difference between the two positions.

As I wrote recently to a researcher at Ryerson regarding a proposal for firearms violence research, most firearm owners would be in favour of armed self defence, as both a reasonable and responsible reaction to criminal threats. It is important to realize that defensive use of firearms could include violence, and most people who understand defensive use of arms would thus be completely in favour of using violence to stop violence, or threats of it when such a response is necessary. After all, when someone encounters a bad person with a firearm, one's natural reaction is to protect oneself with another firearm, or get someone who will perform that service. Often anti-



firearms research papers appear to presume the conclusion that violence is bad, when in effect it is frequently both an effective and necessary response to defend life and property. Self defence is about making a choice about who gets hurt – the attacker or that person’s potential victim(s).

Anti-violence researchers are usually firmly opposed to defensive use of firearms. Typically, they advocate for increased control on civil access to firearms and for restrictions and outright prohibitions on various types of firearms as policy prescriptions to reduce “gun violence” while often ignoring violence generally. The work of Gary Mauser, PhD., and John Lott, PhD clearly demonstrates that having more guns in the hands of the civilian population provides a net benefit in crime reduction and criminal violence. References to “gun violence” tend to prejudice the conclusion, as if the tool was somehow the origin or cause of a problem, when in fact the use of firearms for defensive purposes may sometimes require violent means to achieve positive ends.

Obviously, the real problem is not gun violence, but criminal violence perpetuated by those seeking to prey on society. Often people who use anti-gun language are confusing criminal activity with the presence of firearms. The firearms are merely tools and do not have any exclusive claim to being the tools of the violent criminal. Ill-intentioned people use many sorts of weapons including their bare hands, automobiles and sharp things, and a host of other improvised weapons – criminal violence has many tools.

Unfortunately, the “Law” itself is no deterrent to criminal activity in an environment in which the perceived rewards of crime outweigh the chances of being caught and punished. People who have chosen to engage in criminal

violence do not care about laws which are secondary to their objectives – after all the activity that they are undertaking is already against the law. The problem for the Conservative is clear – how to maintain the support of the firearms community in the absence of any firearms law reform, beyond merely eliminating registration, while at the same time appearing to address perceptions and problems about criminal violence and gang activity.

The firearms community, as a whole, is not willing to surrender more freedoms in exchange for false promises of possible improvements in public safety. In fact, its membership is increasingly demanding the complete restoration of their traditional firearms rights, and most will accept nothing less. This decades-old fight against the gun grabbers has never been just about putting paper certificates next to deer rifles and duck guns. It is far more important than that. However things play out, it will certainly be interesting to see how the Conservatives address their own internal contradictions on this ever so thorny issue. As such, new battles loom for NFA, and the fight goes on for those of us still in the trenches. While the death of the long gun registry may not signal an end to our war against the gun grabbers, it does mark a significant shift in the war’s momentum. It is up to all of us to ensure that we do our part in the days and weeks ahead. So don’t forget to renew your NFA membership, make a donation, contact your MP and let them know about your views and expectations on firearms law reform in a post LGR world and let Minister Towes know your position.



MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

L'enregistrement et autres problèmes.

by Sheldon Clare

Les Conservateurs ont un problème. Ils se sont engagés à éliminer l'enregistrement des armes longues durant les 100 premiers jours du Parlement. Lorsque vous lirez ces lignes l'échéance sera passé et l'obligation d'enregistrer les armes longues n'existera plus. Si tel est le cas, nous pourrions nous réjouir du fait qu'il y ait eu un peu d'amélioration des Lois rétrogrades Canadiennes sur les armes à feu.

Le problème des Conservateurs est que les enthousiastes d'armes à feu s'attendent à ce qu'il y ait d'autres changements apportés à la Loi sur les Armes à Feu. Lorsque les Conservateurs étaient à l'opposition, avec Stephen Harper en tête, ils décriaient avec passion que le Projet de Loi C-68 devait être abrogé. Par contre récemment, tout ce qu'on les entend dire est : 'Nous nous sommes engagés seulement à l'élimination de l'enregistrement.' Malheureusement pour eux, les propriétaires d'armes à feu sont bien conscients que l'enregistrement des armes est un des aspects les moins dommageable de la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (LAF).

L'Idée de fond qui qualifie les armes comme étant mauvaises en soit et que certaines d'entre elles le sont encore plus est encore bien enraciné dans la pensée du Gouvernement. Présentement, la GRC, qui administre le programme des armes à feu, est arbitrairement entrain d'effectuer des changements de classifications d'armes pour les rendre prohibés ou restreintes avant que le changement à la Loi soit fait. Une manifestation évidente de leur idée de fond qui prétend que les armes sont mauvaises en soit. Il est de plus en plus apparent que le Parti Conservateur est divisé par rapport aux lois sur les armes à feu. C'est un illogisme d'ajouter des ressources aux corps policiers, de punir plus sévèrement les crimes commis avec des armes à feu tout en essayant d'obtenir plus de droits et de libertés individuelles.

Puisque nous ne sommes pas des criminels, nous n'avons aucune objection d'appuyer les programmes anti-crimes. Ce qui est inquiétant par contre, c'est de constater l'ampleur de la portée de la LAF, qui fait parti du Code Criminel, à laquelle s'ajoute l'augmentation des pouvoirs policiers. La plupart des propriétaires d'armes à feu ne considèrent pas

qu'un Permis de Possession Acquisition expiré mérite des accusations criminelles et la perte définitive du droit de posséder des armes prohibées. C'est malheureusement ce qui peut se produire selon notre loi, nonobstant les amnisties.

Malheureusement depuis 1995, tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu se trouvent dans cette situation précaire depuis que les Libéraux ont criminalisé la possession d'une arme à feu sans avoir de permis. Un crime créé par la LAF. D'un coup de crayon les Libéraux ont transformé ce que la majorité des Canadiens considèrent comme une mesure administrative, punissable tout au plus par une amende équivalente à un billet de stationnement en une infraction criminelle grave entraînant des peines de prisons. Ceci est inacceptable. Le projet de Loi précédant, C-17 instauré par Kim Campbell, fût tout aussi néfaste et mérite d'être abrogé. Le principe directeur de la réforme des lois sur les armes à feu doit être : Que la possession paisible d'arme ne constitue pas un crime.

Pendant ce temps les partisans du contrôle des armes à feu continuent de prétendre que prévenir les crimes commis avec des armes à feu exige l'interdiction d'encore plus d'armes, malgré l'inefficacité démontrée de leur loi anti-arme C-68. Qui n'est pas contre la violence? Les propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens sont plus respectueux des lois que la moyenne de la population et condamnent ouvertement l'usage des armes à feu à des fins criminelles. Il y a tout un gouffre entre ces deux positions n'est-ce pas?

J'ai récemment écrit à un chercheur de l'Université Ryerson lui proposant un projet de recherche sur la violence faite par arme à feu. Durant notre échange le fait suivant est venu sur le sujet : La plupart des propriétaires d'armes à feu sont en faveur de la légitime défense armée, lorsqu'ils font face à une menace criminelle. Ils considèrent que c'est à la fois responsable et raisonnable comme moyen de défense. Il est important d'être conscient que l'usage défensif d'armes à feu peu contenir un élément de violence. La plupart des gens qui sont familiers avec l'usage défensif d'armes à feu seraient d'accord d'utiliser la violence, ou une menace de violence lorsque nécessaire. Lorsqu'on rencontre un malfaiteur avec

une arme à feu, le fait de défendre notre vie avec une arme à feu ou faire appel à quelqu'un qui peut le faire à notre place est une réaction normale. Pourtant, les documents de recherche anti-armes semblent toujours conclure que la violence est néfaste quand elle est réellement essentielle et efficace pour protéger la vie et les biens. La légitime défense c'est choisir qui va se faire blesser – l'agresseur ou sa(s) victime(s) potentielle(s).

Les chercheurs anti-violence sont habituellement contre l'usage défensif d'armes à feu. Ils préconisent l'augmentation des contrôles pour limiter l'accès aux armes à feu par la population civile, les restrictions et prohibitions de différentes sortes d'armes en tant que politiques pour réduire la violence faite par arme à feu, tout en ignorant la violence en général. Les écrits de M. Gary Mauser Phd, et M. John Lott Phd démontrent clairement que la possession d'armes à feu par des citoyens a un effet bénéfique sur la réduction du crime et de la violence. Lorsque l'expression 'violence par arme à feu' est utilisée, la conclusion sous entendue est que l'outil est la cause ou l'origine du problème. Dans la réalité l'usage défensif d'armes à feu nécessite un certain degré de violence pour obtenir un résultat positif.

Il est évident que la violence par arme à feu n'est pas le véritable problème. Le problème est la présence de criminels violents pour lesquels la société est une proie. Les gens qui utilisent un vocabulaire anti-arme se mélangent souvent entre l'activité criminelle et la présence d'armes à feu. Les armes à feu ne sont que des outils et ils ne sont pas utilisés exclusivement que par des criminels. Les malfaiteurs utilisent toutes sortes d'armes telles que leurs mains, des automobiles, des objets tranchants et toute une panoplie d'autres objets pouvant être utilisés comme armes improvisées. Plusieurs outils sont utilisés pour commettre des crimes violents.



Malheureusement la Loi ne décourage pas les activités criminelles lorsque le fruit du crime paraît plus grand que la probabilité de se faire prendre et punir. Les gens qui commettent des crimes violents ne se préoccupent pas des lois, les activités qu'ils exercent sont déjà illégales. Les lois sont d'une d'importance secondaire à leurs objectifs. Le problème des Conservateurs est évident – comment garder l'appui des enthousiastes d'armes à feu sans faire aucun autre changement aux lois à part de l'élimination de l'enregistrement des armes longues tout en démontrant qu'ils s'occupent des problèmes et des perceptions des gens à propos des crimes violents et des activités des gang de rues. Les enthousiastes d'armes à feu ne veulent pas perdre plus de liberté en échange de fausses promesses d'améliorations possibles en matière de sécurité publique. En fait les gens qui aiment les armes à feu sont de plus en plus nombreux et ils exigent la restauration complète de leurs droits traditionnels en la matière, la plupart n'accepteront rien de moins. L'objectif de cette lutte vieille de dix ans contre les gens anti-armes n'a jamais été uniquement pour jumeler un certificat avec une carabine à chevreuil ou un fusil à canard. Cette lutte est beaucoup plus importante. Quoi qu'il

arrive, ce sera très intéressant de voir comment les Conservateurs vont régler leurs contradictions internes vis-à-vis cet épineux sujet. Il y a d'autres luttes qui se pointent à l'horizon pour la NFA et les batailles n'ont jamais cessées pour ceux d'entre nous pris dans les tranchées. La fin du registre des armes longues ne signifiera pas la fin de la guerre contre ces gens qui veulent nous désarmer, mais causera un changement de direction majeur dans la nature de cette guerre. C'est notre responsabilité à tous de faire notre part dans les semaines et les jours qui suivent. N'oubliez pas de renouveler votre adhésion à la NFA, faites un don, contactez votre député pour lui donner votre opinion et vos attentes sur les réformes nécessaires aux lois sur les armes à feu, après que le registre soit disparu. Faites de même avec le Ministre Toews.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheldon'.



VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Future of Gun Control in Canada

Blair Hagen, Vice President, Communications

The Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership underwent a game-changing metamorphosis as a result of the political failure of the Liberal C-68 Firearms Act. Hopefully it harkens the start of a new era of firearms law reform, beginning with the end of long gun registration through the Conservative government's Bill C-19, and ending with the complete repeal and replacement of the former C-68 and C-17 gun control bills.

Prior to the Conservatives being elected in 2006, and certainly prior to the Auditor General of Canada's report on the Canadian Firearms Program in 2002, which exposed the lies, misdeeds and untruths of the civil disarmament lobby, this Canadian right and tradition was headed down the same road towards dissolution and disaster; just as it had in Australia and the UK. The political paradigm shift in Canada that resulted from the 2006 federal election then, has not only given Canadians the opportunity to re-assert their historic rights and re-affirm such traditions, but also the opportunity to secure those most important of all basic human rights; the right to self-defence and the right to own property.

Certainly, on the surface, the Harper government is sympathetic to these rights, but at the time of this writing, has essentially taken little more than baby steps towards more efficiently codifying them into Canadian law. Time will tell if they have the will to fundamentally secure them for the benefit of all Canadians.

But what of "gun control"?

For decades Canadians have been told that "gun control" is a "Canadian value" and is what chiefly differentiates us from our American neighbors. However, the lies of

the civil disarmament lobby have severely undermined this formerly sacred cow. In 2012, "gun control," as a movement, means a two billion dollar gun registry that didn't save any lives, and a pernicious firearms act that has sought to bully and strip widows and war veterans of their prized family heirlooms - whether it is their deceased husband's old deer rifle, or perhaps a cherished battlefield trophy liberated from enemy hands on the beaches of Normandy or the frozen hills of Korea.

Canadians don't like being lied to and they don't like bullies. That is two big strikes against the gun control lobby in Canada today. Unlucky for the Coalition for Gun Control, and similar lobby groups, the truth is slowly but surely coming out, and the increasing stridency and emotion-driven rhetoric of the gun grabbers is falling on increasingly deaf ears, even amongst the non-gun owning public. However, while they may be down, they're not out and more work remains for Canada's National Firearms Association. The mandatory C-68 firearms license for simple ownership or possession remains the law of the land. If you own or possess a firearm, any firearm - even a simple, unassuming old Cooney .22 rimfire, even one missing its bolt and unable to fire, you will continue to be a criminal in the eyes of the law and the courts; even after Bill C-19 passes, and long gun registration ends. If you allow your POL or PAL to expire, you instantly are guilty of committing a criminal offense as surely as when long gun registration was in effect.

If you allow your firearms license to expire while still in possession of that old .22, the chief firearms officer of your province can, and will, prefer charges against you. They

will order the police to confiscate your gun(s). You will, most likely find yourself prosecuted to the full extent of the law for doing so, just as if you owned registered restricted or prohibited firearms. Do not assume that simply because you are no longer required to hold a registration for a non-restricted long gun that you have escaped the clutches of the gun control bureaucracy.

It is important to note that this is the same firearms bureaucracy whom the Auditor General of Canada noted in 2002 regarded the use of firearms is, in itself, a "questionable activity" that required strong controls, and believed, as part of its corporate culture, that there should be a "zero-tolerance attitude" toward non-compliance with the Firearms Act.

As long as the Liberal C-68 mandatory firearms license remains, the principle tool by which civil disarmament in Canada is to be achieved will continue to be employed by the RCMP civil-disarmament bureaucracy.

Some may still selfishly believe that this effort is only directed at owners of prohibited machine guns, ugly black rifles or handguns. That is simply wrong. The entire experience of the 1995 C-68 Firearms Act, including licensing and universal registration has destroyed any credible belief in the assertion that gun control, as currently practiced by Canadian bureaucracies, is anything other than a complete civil-disarmament agenda. This is supported by the increasing criticism C-68 has come under from the non-gun owning public, academics, front-line police officers and groups such as the Canadian Taxpayer's Federation.

With the end of the long gun registry, civil-disarmament initiatives in Canada will ostensibly return to the type enforced prior to 1995. At that time, the preferred method was firearms confiscation through reclassification. You purchased your firearm legally with an F.A.C., but the government reclassified it as restricted or prohibited through Order in Council (OIC). This is what happened to owners of the Franchi SPAS-12 shotgun, Calico carbine, etc...

Today, firearms reclassification has a different look. Instead of the Government of Canada reclassifying firearms, the RCMP has now taken it upon itself to do so where the government cannot or will not. The RCMP's unilateral firearms reclassification agenda began shortly after the Conservatives were elected in 2006, and has reclassified and confiscated scores of firearms for almost six years.

To give the devil his due, they've gone about it the "smart" way. A couple dozen Chinese imports here, fifty or a hundred .22s there; these "small" scale reclassifications have added up over time, and have set a very bad precedent for further large-scale reclassifications in the future. By focusing on guns that are/were relatively rare, or held in very few numbers, the RCMP avoided large-scale outrage and protest from the firearms community, or so they hoped. Of course, they've also been aided and abetted by the seemingly ingrained apathy of Canadian gun owners, who invariably fail to act unless directly impacted.

The most indicative example of this RCMP reclassification agenda has taken place recently, in the run up to the end of long gun registration. Owners of registered non-restricted Walther G22 .22 rimfire carbines were informed that the stocks on their rifles were "prohibited devices," and were ordered to either surrender their stocks or, if they prefer, the entire firearm for destruction. If not, their registration certificate would be revoked and the firearm confiscated.

Just for clarification, it was the stock that was prohibited - not the firearm itself. Apparently owners can continue to hold a registration for their Walther G22s, as long as they are not in possession of the stock.

Madness.

Owners of Armi Jaeger AP-80 .22 rimfire

carbines, who were assisted by the Canadian Firearms Program in registering these rifles as non-restricted firearms before the registration deadline at the end of 2002, are now receiving registration revocation notices from the RCMP. It seems that these rifles have been restricted since 1992, and prohibited since 1995, but the firearms bureaucrats forgot to inform their registered owners of this.

The Canadian Firearms Program issued registrations for these Armi Jaeger AP-80s as non-restricted firearms, but now that the registration on non-restricted long guns is ending in Canada, they are to be confiscated from their firearms license holding owners. Not from criminals or individuals posing a danger to public safety, but law-abiding gun owners who complied with the firearms registration program as was demanded by their government.

But "they" said that licensing and registration would never lead to confiscation...right?

As outrageous as this situation is, what may be of even more concern is the RCMP's seeming intention to focus on what many within the firearms community now call "creative" firearms license revocations, and firearms prohibition; especially now that they can no longer rely on their preferred tool of civil disarmament, registration, to achieve their civil-disarmament goals.

As it stands, you need not be convicted of a crime to have your firearms licence revoked. Your provincial chief firearms officer need only believe that it is not in the interests of public safety for you to have one. A complaint from a former spouse, a neighbor, a vindictive ex-employee can all result in your firearms license being revoked, with the onus being put upon you to defend yourself as to why it should not be.

We see it today ever more often in the face of increasingly hostile divorces. False or exaggerated charges are used as weapons to strip former partners of their firearms licence and right to possess their firearms. The fight to regain their licence or retrieve their guns from local law enforcement can drag on for months, if not years. Proven anti-gun forces, such as the RCMP, in concert with allies within the gun control bureaucracy, can draw the process out even longer. Many gun owners in recent years have been forced to appeal to the courts, sometimes multiple times, in order

to force local firearms officers to comply with court-issued orders requiring police to return seized firearms to their rightful owners.

All too often the legitimate complaints of gun owners will fall on deaf ears. Complaints and appeals will often get you effectively nowhere when dealing with either biased firearms officers or gun control bureaucrats. You can expect the same answer, as was proffered recently over criticism of their last minute confiscation of the remaining registered Armi Jager AP-80 rimfire rifles in Canada, which essentially argued that we (RCMP) don't make the law, we are simply enforcing it, and exercising our legal powers granted under the Firearms Act.

That is what is known the world over as passing the buck. As with the case of the Armi Jager AP-80, the RCMP has chosen to enforce the letter, but not the intent of the law as the current CPC government would interpret it. Unfortunately, they seem to have been given a free hand to "interpret" that letter in such a manner that is most advantageous to their own decidedly anti-gun institutional ethos. Equally disquieting is Minister Towes' blithe acceptance of their increasingly absurd assurances and arguments that they are acting in the "best interests" of the public, all the while confiscating .22 rimfire carbines that have imported into Canada as far back as the early 1980s and have never been used to commit a single criminal act! Sorry, but such arguments simply do not pass the sniff test used by any average Canadian to determine rottenness.

So civil-disarmament through "gun control" will continue, just on a different scale and using different tactics and tools. The massive failure of the attempt at the universal registration of firearms in Canada has set that goal back considerably, but has not ended the agenda of the civil-disarmament lobby in Canada. The Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership will not be secure until the entire Liberal C-68 Firearms Act of 1995 is relegated to the trash heap of history. Let's use this opportunity given to us by the fortunes of politics to do just that.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear NFA,

What will it take for the media to finally get it regarding the realities of the long gun registry? I'm not surprised by the anti-gun attitude of the political left, especially that of the historically anti-gun Quebec contingent. The right to own firearms has always translated to mean freedom, and that is something that is anathema to "progressive" ideologies. Given the political leanings of most of the Canadian media, it also isn't surprising that they continue to support the gun grabbers in their efforts. However, the blatant attempts, in recent weeks, by mainstream media to paint gun owners as potential threats to public safety in some sad attempt to prop-up the failed long gun registry is simply inexcusable.

The people have spoken on the issue of the gun registry by electing a Conservative government. Yet, since the election and introduction of promised government legislation aimed at eliminating the useless long gun registry, all Canadians hear on the news and read in the papers are wails of outrage & protest because of the requisite requirement to destroy the private data contained within the LGR.

I don't believe that the protagonists of this silliness are dumb people. Whether it is well-known leftist blogger, Warren Kinsella, in a Sault Star column not long ago, or the (Toronto) Star's editorial staff several weeks ago, or just about every reporter currently employed by the CBC or CTV networks; I believe that they all conveniently fail to report the truth in order to dupe the average citizen.

Creating controversy and beating the political drum for the left is also a great way to sell more newspapers and advertising, but beneath the monetary gain, there remains a clear desire to re-write history and help shape public policy. For me, this is shameful media subterfuge of the worst kind, and clear abuse of the public trust.

Enough with the faux outrage that the registry databases must be destroyed! What do they expect will happen once the government actually followed through and "scrapped the registry" as promised? That data was collected for one express purpose, a purpose that will no longer exist once C-19 becomes law.

Ron A.

Dear Ron,

We couldn't agree more!

- Editors

Dear NFA,

As a law-abiding gun owner I've been following the public debate over Bill C-19 very closely. I probably shouldn't, as I

always seem to end up driving my blood pressure that much higher. What really gets my goat is the issue of what do with the sensitive personal data collected by the CFC as part of the LGR.

It would seem that much of Canada's media community have conveniently forgotten the promises made to gun owners, in exchange for voluntarily registering their guns, by the former Liberal government of Jean Chretien. Included was the key promise that our information was being collected solely for the express purpose of setting up a federal firearms registry. Nothing more.

Gun owners were assured that their information would be protected under all circumstances and specifically, would not be shared with parties outside the federal firearms bureaucracy. Yet, given this grave responsibility, what does the CFC do but turn over an allegedly "sanitized" copy of the registry database to the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, who promptly post it on the Internet for the entire world to view! How many "shopping lists" were compiled by Internet-savvy gangs thanks to that harebrained decision by some unaccountable gun control bureaucrat? How many unsuspecting gun collectors were made the victims of home invasion or B&E's because of this?

Then, adding insult to injury, what do I find on the NFA website? The results of the NFA's Access to Information request filed with the RCMP confirming 480 breeches of their computer system! Why hasn't this unconscionable failure of RCMP security not been better publicized by the mainstream media? Why haven't honest gun owners been warned that their data has not been protected as promised?

Instead of addressing these legitimate security concerns, the media and the gun control lobby continue to ignore the issue and argue that the decision to destroy LGR data is somehow "undemocratic." Apparently the wishes of the voting public should be ignored and the gun registry and its data should be preserved regardless of who actually won the last federal election.

Given the promises made to gun owners and the RCMP's inability to protect the data in question, not to mention the fact that the original reason for collecting said data will no longer exist in a few short weeks, all LGR data must be destroyed; it is as simple as that. To transfer registry data to any other party, provinces included, would constitute a breach of the public trust and contravene the privacy rights of Canadian gun owners. It is time we started holding our public officials, government bureaucrats, law enforcement agencies to at least the same standards we, ourselves, are expected to uphold as private citizens. It is time to end the LGR and the double-standard gun owners are expected to live under.

Matthew O.

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for your thought-provoking letter. You identify some very important security concerns and issues that the RCMP and Canadian Firearms Program officials have yet to adequately answer for. NFA executives continue to labour tirelessly in pursuit of these answers and we are succeeding in shining a rather uncomfortable light on the heretofore hidden failures of the Liberal's gun control program.

You'll find little argument from us with respect to your legitimate criticism of the so-called mainstream media either. With the exception of the National Post, Sun News and the fledgling Sun News Network, no mainstream media outlets have paid anything more than lip service toward providing fair and balanced coverage of this issue.

As a consequence, law-abiding hunters and target shooters find themselves vilified in the media once more, and our rights as law-abiding citizens dismissed, - seemingly without regard to due process...Simply because their beliefs differ from the left-wing agenda being propagated by Canada's self-styled "progressive" media.

It's high time for the left-wing media to move on and start focusing on reporting real news, such as the socio-political issues that are at the root of gun and gang violence plaguing Canada's inner-cities. Doing so would go a long way toward salvaging what remains of their journalistic integrity. Who knows? It might even somehow make the Toronto Star or CBC relevant again.

In the meantime, we encourage all responsible firearms owners to make their voices heard and help spread the truth of this issue. Please continue to write those letters to the editor of your local papers, send in those E-mails to your evening news hour feedback segments and make your voice heard on the issue on your local talk radio. And don't forget to share your thoughts with your provincial representatives and MP as well!

- Editors



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Editor sean@nfa.ca

Sean Penney & Grayson Penney

General Managerinfo@nfa.ca or ginger@nfa.ca

Ginger Fournier 780-439-1394

Accounts / Membership / General Info membership@nfa.ca

Legal Inquiries legal@nfa.ca

National Executive

National President 1-877-818-0393

Sheldon Clare..... sheldon@nfa.ca

Vice President, Communications.....1-877-818-0393

Blair Hagen..... blair@nfa.ca

Treasurer..... 1-877-818-0393

Bill Rantz.....bill@nfa.ca

Secretary..... 1-877-818-0393

Ted Simmermon.....info@nfa.ca

Regional Directors

British Columbia - Yukon.....1-877-818-0393

Sheldon Clare sheldon@nfa.ca

Blair Hagen blair@nfa.ca

Alberta – NWT – Out-of-Canada.....1-877-818-0393

Ed Lucas ed@nfa.ca

Ted Simmermon info@nfa.ca

Saskatchewan1-877-818-0393

Jim Smithjim@nfa.ca

Manitoba – Nunavut.....1-877-818-0393

Inky Mark inky@nfa.ca

Ontario1-877-818-0393

Bill Rantzbill@nfa.ca

Henry Atkinsonhenry@nfa.ca

Quebec1-877-818-0393

Phil Simard phil@nfa.ca

Stephen Buddo steve@nfa.ca

Maritimes–Newfoundland & Labrador.....1-877-818-0393

Sean Penney..... sean@nfa.ca

Creative Design by The AD Guys 780-488-5776

Angie Hutchison angie@theadguys.ca

CANADIAN NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

Box 49090

Tel: 780-439-1394

Edmonton, Alberta

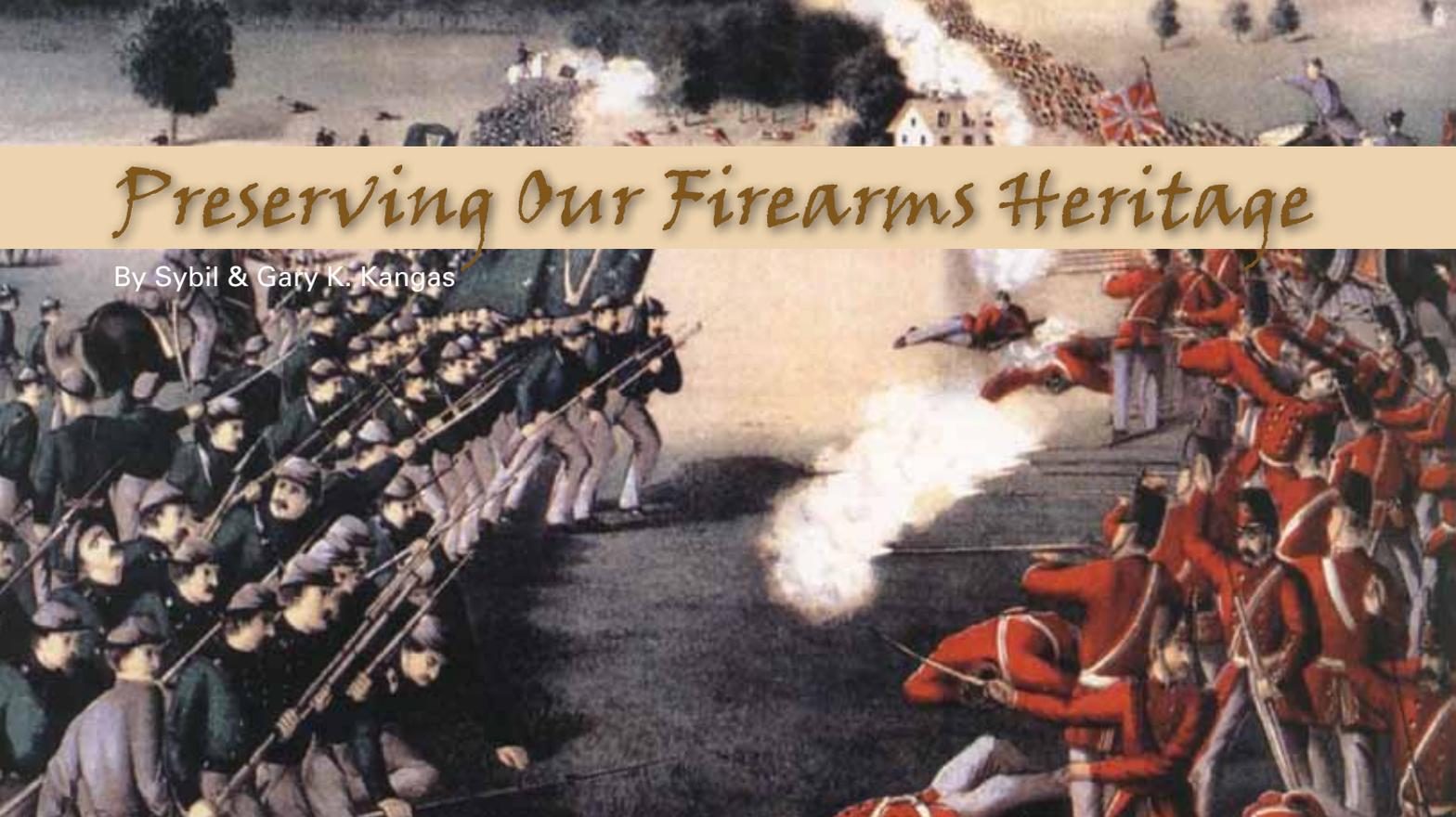
Toll Free 1-877-818-0393

Canada T6E 6H4

Fax: 780-439-4091

info@nfa.ca

www.nfa.ca



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

By Sybil & Gary K. Kangas

Recreating a genuine military engagement at an actual historic site, such as the Niagara peninsula's annual Battle of Ridgeway, is an event not to be missed by students of Canadian history. On a warm spring day in 1866 an army of Fenians, (Irish Republicans) invaded the Niagara peninsula, intent upon ridding Canada of "British tyranny" and liberating "Mother Ireland" of her beastly British occupiers.

It seems rather far-fetched today, but the irony of the Fenian invasion was that rather than bolstering the Irish cause, it instead dramatically accelerated the Canadian Confederation process and engendered a greater sense of nationalism throughout the provinces of Canada. While the Confederation process had already been underway before the Fenian action, the clear need for a dramatically enhanced national defence capability spurred the process on, and little more than a year later the Dominion of Canada was created

The attack was by no means a surprise, and was arguably the worst kept secret on the North American continent by the spring of 1866. The American Civil War had just ended the year before, and over a million battle-hardened veterans found themselves displaced, unemployed and searching for a cause. The tens of thousands of Irish-American veterans found the transition back to civilian life particularly hard. Anti-Irish sentiment and bigotry remained a fact of life and many doors remained closed to those "damn potato eaters," despite their valiant service during the war for both the Blue & the Grey.

There is little surprise that the Fenians found a rich and willing pool of well-trained recruits, clamoring to join their expeditionary force in the months following the end of the war. In short order, supporters of the brotherhood were able to

secure ample stocks of arms, ammunition and other necessary military supplies. To the detriment of Canada's sovereignty, the task was not a difficult one, as America began the massive task of demobilizing the bulk of its military; having won victory for their Union and putting an end to the Confederate insurrection.

By the spring of 1866 there was no question that the Fenian Brotherhood planned on taking the offensive. Yet American government officials and military intelligence services turned a blind-eye to the Fenian's preparations. Fenian Brotherhood depots and supply caches were subsequently established along the border in preparation for the invasion. The Americans, at best, were disinterested in the Fenian plan; perhaps still smarting from Britain's ill-concealed support of their rebellious kin during their recent internecine flap. At worst, sympathizers in government may have provided covert intelligence and aid to their former comrades-in-arms, perhaps with the aim of keeping the dream of Manifest Destiny alive. Whatever the official or unofficial American position on the Fenian invasion, there was no question their Canadian counterparts had been anxiously watching developments across the border.

Across the Niagara River, Premier John A. MacDonald finally issued orders mobilizing the Canadian militia on May 31st. Included in the mobilization order were elements of The Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, (still sporting their heavy green winter uniforms) and the 13th Battalion of Hamilton dressed in traditional scarlet. The former were rushed via rail to Port Colborne, while the latter were deployed in and around Hamilton, as remaining militia units were called up, activated



The Fenians Are Coming

*We are the Fenian brotherhood,
skilled in arts of war
And we're going to fight for
Ireland, the land that we adore.
Many battles have we won, along
with the boys in blue,
And we'll go and capture Canada,
for we've nothing else to do."
- Traditional Fenian Battle Anthem.*

and/or assembled in preparation for the feared Fenian incursion. They were a mixed bag of regular and volunteer militia units, including elements of the York Rifles Company, the Dunnville Naval Company (deployed as infantry), Welland Field Battery, etc... Total strength of Canadian units, including officers was reported to be somewhere on the order of approximately 840, with several dozen other civilian scouts, local guides, officials and chaplains attached.

Unfortunately, while quite enthusiastic and filled with patriotic fervor, the painfully inexperienced and un-blooded Canadian militiamen, along with most of their officers, seemingly offered little challenge for the battle-hardened cadre of Civil War veterans expected to spearhead the Fenian van. Far from cohesive units, many Canadian militiamen were issued unfamiliar rifles and ill-fitting uniforms just short days, or even hours, before they were fated to “see the Oliphant;” as their Irish-American enemies had done on the battlefields of Gettysburg and Shiloh.

FREE IRELAND!

Just after 3:00 a.m. on June 1st, 1866 the Fenian Army crossed the Niagara River in their bid to free their homeland from the yoke of British rule. Well-armed and equipped, the invasion of Canada was on! As the early morning hours unfolded the Fenians successfully stole horses for scouting and reconnaissance, cut telegraph lines, destroyed railroad tracks and burned bridges. Other Fenian units were stationed at various places in New York State, Vermont and Illinois. The movement of the Fort Erie Fenian force was being monitored by the gun boat USS Michigan. However, due to the various strategies and assumed objectives of the Fenian forces, no one was completely certain

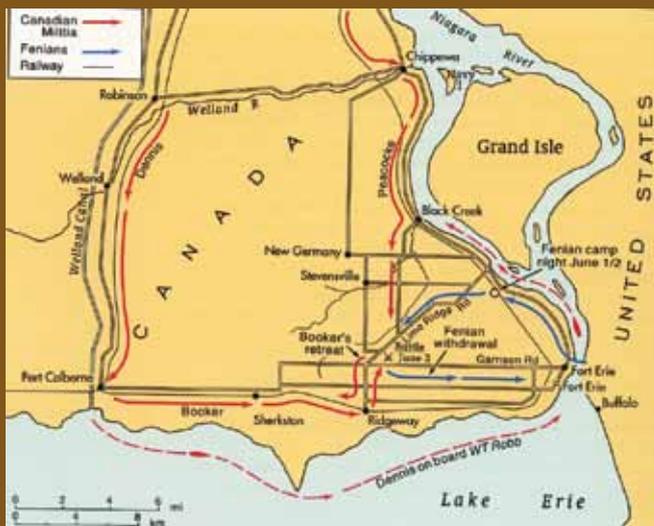
of the actual direction of the invasion. Under cover of darkness the invading Fenians marched towards the key strategic rally point of Ridgeway.

Following the initial Fenian thrusts, the main force assaulted a farm along Frenchman’s Creek and established their main camp and HQ. From all accounts locals were well treated and there was little acceptance of looting, and none rapine and murder, that had often accompanied similar raids carried-out by irregular forces during the American Civil War. The Fenians conducted themselves as professional fighting men, although the Reeve of Fort Eire was ordered to provide food for the invading forces.

The Fenian commanders, despite being aware that the Canadian Militia had been called out, and was even then on the march, adamantly believed their superior skills and battle experience would win the day. It was also expected that their ranks would be swelled by new Irish-Canadian recruits, whom they mistakenly believed to be just as discontented with British rule as were they. Much to the Fenians chagrin, they found little sympathy and fewer recruits on this side of the border, and the extra uniforms and small arms shipped across the Niagara were fated to never be used.

By mid afternoon of June 1st, the USS Michigan began more actively patrolling the Niagara River, along with steam tugs armed with howitzers. American officialdom had finally gotten off the mark, and the Michigan was immediately tasked with halting cross-river traffic and intercepting Fenian barges loaded with reinforcements and additional supplies.

The Canadian commanders, with little access to good



intelligence, including principal Fenian objectives, numbers and armaments, were forced to try and cover multiple strategic points of vulnerability with their ad hoc militias; a seeming impossible task at the time. Following the initial callout, each Canadian unit was assigned to specified duties such as protecting communications, rail lines, or bridges, while others were tasked with critical rear echelon duties such as prisoner escort, in order to permit better equipped or trained units to focus on repelling the Fenian invaders.

Lacking the time and access to intelligence necessary to plan a more elaborate counter to the Fenian invasion, the Canadian strategy was kept deliberately simple and primarily focused on direct frontal actions against the attacking Fenians; with the aim of flanking them and eventually smashing any retreating Fenian forces against blocking forces positioned to cut off any possible retreat.

The early morning quiet of June 2nd, 1866 was broken by the sound of gunfire. Just north of present day Ridgeway, the Canadians and Fenians found themselves engaged in a fierce battle for control of the area known as Limestone Ridge. One participant later remarked what a shame it was that the battle had to happen on such a beautiful, warm summer day.

As for the course of the battle, now finally blooded, it was the

inexperienced Canadian militia forces that surprisingly enjoyed early successes. Initially the Canadians forced a temporary Fenian retreat from the ridge, however, their lack of battle experience and command and control capabilities under fire proved most telling. The Canadian force became confused and disorganized in the fog of battle. Some units mistakenly withdrew, while others prepared for a cavalry attack that could never come, and several Canadian militia units mistook one another for the enemy.

The more experienced Fenians capitalized on this weakness and countered with a fierce bayonet charge; driving the Canadians back towards Ridgeway. The Fenians were the veterans of dozens of such terrifying charges and any Civil War veteran will tell you that there is something decidedly unsettling about the prospect of being impaled by two feet of raw steel. Ultimately, the Canadian lines, manned with raw recruits, broke under the assault. Rather than continue to press the Canadians, the Fenian commander opted to regroup and hold in place while the men cooked and ate their lunch. Perhaps a testament to their professionalism, battle diaries of veterans noted that Fenian forces did very little looting, taking only food, provisions and clothing during their foraging behind civilian lines in the battle's aftermath.

In the interim, the Fenian commander,

"Tramp, tramp, tramp the boys are marching. Cheer up, let the Fenians come. For beneath the Union Jack, we shall drive the Fenians back, as we fight for our beloved Canadian homes. Cheer up boys, come on, come on! It will not take us long To prove to their dismay, that their raid will not pay And wish that from Canadian ground They stayed away."
 - Popular Militia Marching Song, circa 1866.



Brigadier General John O'Neill was concentrating on the unenviable task of trying to read the mind of his counterpart; Lt. Colonel Alfred Booker, and discerning his intentions. Of gravest concern was the location and disposition of the main British forces. Lacking reinforcements and unable to recruit Canadian-Irish sympathizers to his cause, O'Neill found himself facing a strategic no-win scenario, despite his tactical success.

Unwilling to risk the possible ambush of his command by the still expected British regulars, the American commander issued the order to withdraw back toward Fort Eire before the British could take the field. O'Neill may have preferred to avoid battle and preserve his forces at this point, but he was to be disappointed by a small, but plucky force of Canadian militia, including a number of sailors off the steamer W.T. Robb, along with additional volunteers from the Welland Field Battery and the Dunnville Naval Brigade at Fort Erie, who were armed and deployed as infantry. In the subsequent firefight, now called the Battle of Fort Eire, the heavily outnumbered Canadian force was ultimately forced to withdraw in the face of a numerically superior enemy. The action remains under a cloud to this day, mostly due to charges of cowardice

leveled at the ranking Canadian officer in command of the improvised company, Lieutenant-Colonel John Dennis. Despite being poorly served by their officers, and painfully ill-equipped with obsolete small arms, reports indicate that the Canadian contingent gave a good accounting of themselves despite being outnumbered in excess of ten-to-one.

Yet, just as before, the Fenian general was unable to translate tactical success into strategic victory. O'Neill, now fully aware that there were to be no reinforcement from across the river, saw his position as untenable and all hope of victory on the Niagara lost. Withdrawal and retreat back across the river was ordered immediately, before the Canadians could effectively counterattack. Most wisely, O'Neill feared the slaughter rapidly deploying Canadian artillery and British reinforcements would make of his little army. By midday on June 3rd, Fort Eire was re-occupied by British Regulars and Canadian militia units.

The Fenian invasion of Canada was over. O'Neill and some 850 men, all that was left of his original 1300-man invasion force, withdrew to the Niagara River and surrendered their arms to waiting American authorities. The drama surrounding the Fenians and their plans for Canada would continue until about

1871. While their Niagara adventure bore no fruit, the dream of a free Ireland lived on in their philosophical successors; lamentably leading to many more decades of senseless bloodshed and violence.

In Canada, the Fenian expedition of 1866 had a tremendously positive effect upon our fledgling Canadian military. The Canadian citizen-soldier was suddenly perceived far more favourably by the public and militiamen found themselves the proverbial "men of the hour." Returning militia units were met with cheering crowds and massive displays of public appreciation, as celebrations were organized in their honour around the colonies.

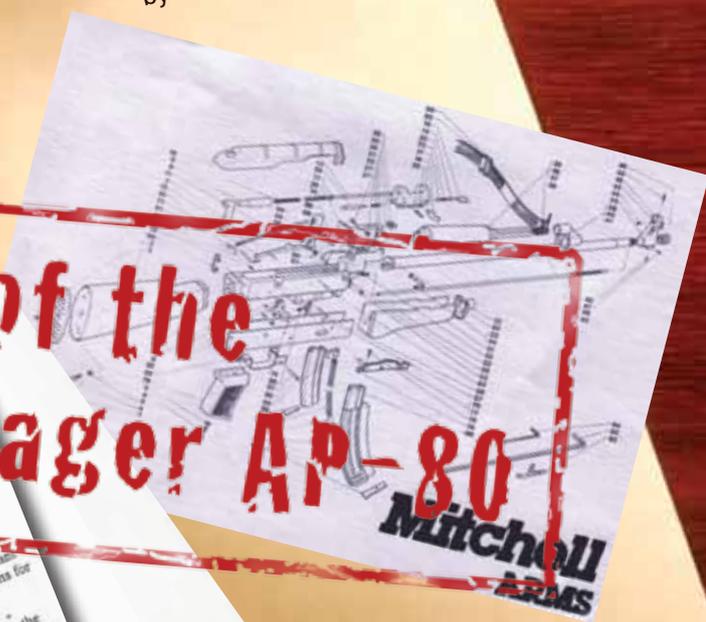
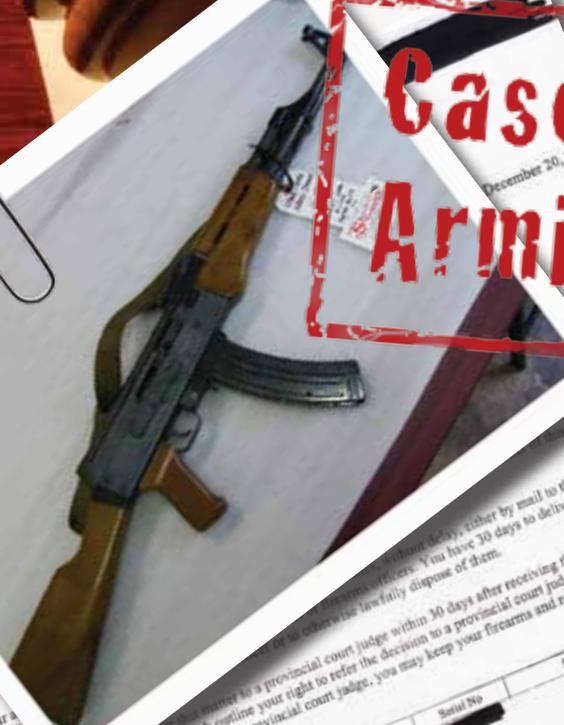
Today, the Battle of Ridgeway is remembered and recreated every June with the co-operation of Canadian and U.S. re-enactors, along with the support of two Niagara Peninsula High Schools and the Niagara Parks Commission. The event takes place on the grounds of old Historic Fort Eire.

Author's Note: *I very much appreciate the information and guidance supplied by Tim Warnick of Grimsby, Ontario plus the wonderful photos courtesy of the Niagara Parks Commission.*

LEGAL CORNER

by Sean G Penney

Case of the Armi Jager AP-80



Registration Certificate	Make	Type	Serial No.	Firearm Identification Number
[Redacted]	Armi Jager	Rifle	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Reasons for revocation
The Canadian Firearms Information System confirms your Possession Licence authorizes you to possess non-restricted, restricted and certain prohibited firearms. The responsibility of the Registrar of Firearms is limited to the issuance of registration certificates.
Pursuant to section 71 of the Firearms Act, the Registrar may revoke a registration certificate for any good and sufficient reason.
The above-mentioned firearm is a prohibited firearm for the purpose of paragraph (d) of the definition of "prohibited firearm" in subsection 84 (1) of the Criminal Code. The firearm is prescribed to be a prohibited firearm, pursuant to paragraph 64 of Part I of the Schedule to the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted, as a variant of the design of the firearm commonly known as the AK-47 rifle.
Section 13 of the Firearms Act, you are not eligible to hold a registration certificate for a firearm unless you hold a Possession Licence that authorizes you to possess that kind of firearm. Although your licence authorizes you to possess certain prohibited firearms, you are not eligible to hold a registration certificate for a restricted weapon under the former Act and was not the subject of an extension 1055.



A few days before Christmas, after the House of Commons had closed and most MPs had returned to their home ridings for the holidays, the RCMP issued a curtly worded *Notice of Revocation of a Registration Certificate* to numerous law-abiding Canadian gun owners across the country. The notice informed them that their non-restricted registration certificate for their heretofore legally registered **Armi Jager AP-80** .22LR rimfire rifle had been revoked. Owners were notified that their rifle was now classified as a prohibited firearm, and unless the recipient already possessed the required grandfathered endorsement on their firearms license, they were required to turn it in for destruction within 30 days, or face criminal charges. No compensation was to be paid.

Armi Jager, was an Italian firearms manufacturer best known for building quality reproductions of historic firearms ranging from percussion revolvers of the American Civil War era to later metallic cartridge designs of the late 19th century. They later expanded their line to include cosmetic rimfire replicas of famous military-style assault rifles sold under their own brand and others, most notably Mitchell Arms. Their cosmetic "copies" of the famed American M-16, French FAMAS, Israeli GALIL, and other designs proved extremely popular with shooters looking for a well-made, reasonably priced rimfire plinker. Most potential buyers were primarily attracted by the cosmetics of the Armi Jager line. One of their most popular rimfire rifles proved to be the Model AP-80, which was manufactured to outwardly resemble the Russian AK-47 assault rifle. Armi Jager also produced the rifle under contract for Mitchell Arms, who marketed the rifle as the Model AK-22.

Countless Armi Jager and Mitchell Arms rifles were imported and sold across Canada throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, until the federal government of the day issued "Special Prohibition Order #13" which unilaterally reclassified the AK-47 and all variants as PROHIBITED firearms. Like virtually every other facet of Canada's poorly written gun control legislation, drafting mistakes continue to needlessly complicate the lives of law-abiding gun owners. The AP-80 is a case in point.

Contrary to all logic and actual laws of

mechanical design, the Mitchell AK-22 became a NAMED variant of the AK-47 under the aforementioned prohibition order; despite having a completely different method of operation, firing a wholly incompatible rimfire round (compared to the AK-47's centerfire 7.62mm round), and having no shared commonality of parts or methods of manufacture. Unlike the Mitchell Arms rifle, the Armi Jager AP-80 was never included under "Special Prohibition Order #13," or any that followed, and was thus never technically a named, NAMED variant of the AK-47. Neither was it a mechanical variant, for the same reasons the Mitchell Arms AK-22 is not.

Like tens of thousands of other Canadian gun owners in the early 90s, many Armi Jager AP-80 owners remained oblivious to the nonsensical machinations of the government's gun control bureaucracy and the unilateral change in the status of the Mitchell twin of their rifle. Understandably, most failed to heed the government's warning to re-register their firearm before January 1, 1995, and in doing so, missed being granted special grandfathered status (12.5) that would've permitted them to continue to own their legally purchased property.

A few years later, as the Liberal's C-68 gun control program was being implemented and universal registration of all firearms was being publicized, many AP-80 owners followed government instructions and registered their AP-80s; or had agents of the CFC do it for them. Since the model name of AP-80 does not appear on any list of prohibited firearms, in the mad-rush to register anything and everything they possibly could, the Liberals permitted numerous AP-80s to be registered as non-restricted firearms. (This is during the period the CFC was registering Black & Decker heat guns, Mastercraft staple guns, etc...)

AP-80 owners who registered their rifles were largely oblivious to the legal mess that was percolating behind the scenes; mostly as a result of the bureaucratic incompetence and political diletantism that marked the implementation of the Liberal's gun control program. The fact that the AP-80 was registered as a non-restricted for more than a decade should be enough to give even the most ardent supporter of the now doomed long gun registry pause. It certainly provides clear

evidence to support the NFA's long-held contention that the registry database has been riddled with errors from the start, and remains so today.

The current situation also serves to highlight just how empty the Liberal promise that, "registration would not equal confiscation," was and is. For proof, simply look to former owners of the Norinco Type 97A, High Standard Model 10B or Armi Jager AP-80.

The timing of the latest round of revocations letters and confiscations is more than a little convenient for the RCMP. Arguably, the Armi Jager AP-80 has been a prohibited firearm since the early 90s, as a result of its relationship to the Mitchell AK-22. The recent decision handed down by the Court of Appeal for Ontario in *Henderson v. Canada* (Attorney General) would seem to legally uphold the RCMP's contention that the AP-80 is a variant of the AK-47, - despite the opinion of the lower court and virtually every firearms expert on the planet. In the *Henderson* case, the Registrar had refused to issue a registration certificate for his AP-80 following an application he submitted in 2000.

The notice of refusal received by Mr. Henderson indicated that his AP-80 was a prohibited firearm for the purposes of the Criminal Code because it is declared to be a prohibited firearm by s. 64 of Part I of the Schedule to *The Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted*, S.O.R./98-462, an Order in Council made on September 16, 1998 pursuant to s. 84(1) of the *Criminal Code*.

Section 2 of the Order in Council provides that the firearms listed in Part 1 of the Schedule to S.O.R./98-462 are prohibited firearms for the purposes of the Criminal Code. The relevant part of s. 64 of Part 1 reads:

64. The firearm of the design commonly known as the AK-47 rifle, and any variant or modified version of it except for the Valmet Hunter, the Valmet Hunter Auto and the Valmet M78 rifles, but including the:

(z.22) Mitchell AK-22 ...

This decision was handed down last fall.

As it stands, it would appear that the RCMP timed things so that they would essentially have a free hand to pluck any low-hanging fruit, (vulnerable/uncommon firearms, owned by few owners) before C-19 becomes law and the LGR is scrapped. You must keep in mind that once the LGR is scrapped, any improperly registered, “non-restricted” AP-80 registrations will be trashed with it, and the RCMP will effectively lose control of what are essentially banned guns. A situation that is simply intolerable within the RCMP’s accepted institutional ethos.

While technically legal, this additional confiscation effort most certainly contradicts the spirit of Bill C-19. It also contradicts the wider mandate given to the Conservative by the Canadian electorate to begin the process of reforming and replacing the Liberal’s failed gun control program generally. Without question, launching such a controversial initiative five days before Christmas, with the House closed and MPs out of town, smacks of underhanded, dirty politics. The RCMP may have had the legal and technical right to confiscate allegedly “improperly” registered AP-80 rifles, thanks to the Henderson decision, however, the decision to go after them at this time appears wholly political.

At present, all recipients of such a revocation letter have the right to request a reference hearing and NFA urges all owners to exercise this right. At the very least it buys additional time and keeps your firearm away from the cutting torch, while other alternatives are explored. The possibility of a class action law suit being brought by owners in Ontario and Quebec has been raised and other legal and political options are being explored at this moment.

There is no question that this case is rapidly becoming a political “hot potato” for the current government. In addition to drawing attention to the inherent flaws associated with the failed Liberal gun control program, the case of the AP-80 has also served to re-ignite the debate over property rights in Canada, - or more correctly, our lack of them.

As outrageous as it sounds, property rights were deliberately left off the list of protected rights listed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms during the Trudeau Liberal’s repatriation of the Canadian Constitution. That is why the RCMP and the government have the ability to strip lawful AP-80 owners of their legally purchased property without compensation; property that many have owned for upwards of thirty years or more without problem or issue. There is no question that confiscation without fair compensation is grotesquely unfair. Once properly informed, there is little question that more members of the public will share the same outrage gun owners feel over this latest miscarriage of justice. At the very least, AP-80 owners are entitled to fair compensation; just as Norinco Type-97A owners received this past year.

It may well be that the introduction of C-19 may have forced the RCMP’s hand, as time is running out on them with respect to the long gun registry. Had the LGR been scrapped before Christmas, the RCMP would have lost their ability to identify, target and harass law-abiding gun owners of such incorrectly registered firearms. No longer would they know the who, what or where, when it comes to such evil-looking “assault” rifles, and that runs counter to the entrenched anti-gun ethos of the RCMP. Reclassifying firearms like the AP-80 and similar “evil”

semi-autos, in order to further restrict their legal status, ensures that the RCMP will retain a measure of control over them in a post C-19 world. For now, the registry of restricted and prohibited firearms will remain unaffected by C-19. As such, the RCMP will continue to maintain records of restricted/prohibited ownership, even after the LGR is relegated to the trash heap of history.

Obviously, a pattern is clearly emerging. Under the direction of their RCMP managers, activist bureaucrats and officers assigned to the Canadian Firearms Program are currently taking full advantage of what little time remains to continue to pluck low-hanging fruit; firearms like the AP-80 that have skated under the radar until now, or exist in such few numbers that the chance of a legal challenge of political action is virtually nil. We’ve seen this pattern repeated with the High Standard Model 10B shotgun, Rossi Backpacker, etc... The primary goal would seem to ensure that any outstanding models skirting the prohibited classification be tipped over the edge before the LGR is trashed, or have the firearm bumped up in classification so that it will remain under RCMP “control” via the restricted firearms registry. We’ve seen a similar pattern emerge with respect to what appears to be a substantial increase in the tempo of police raids and search & seizure operations under the auspices of “Operation Safe City” type initiatives that target seniors and widows across the country; demographics that are most likely to be in possession of non-restricted long guns.

Where does this leave AP-80 owners? Probably in a limbo that only author James Heller of Catch-22 fame could appreciate. There is no question that the AP-80 isn’t a mechanical variant of the AK-47 assault rifle. However, despite having never been specifically named as a NAMED variant of the Russian rifle, the Ontario courts have ruled that it is a variant of the Mitchell AK-22. As such, technically and legally it is now considered a variant of the AK-47 and is thus prohibited.

This insanity is due, in equal measures to the lack of fundamental firearms knowledge held by the drafters of the special prohibition orders and the larger Firearms Act. Detractors have also argued that because there is no established definition in the law of the term “variant,” a variant can essentially be anything that the RCMP deems it to be. We’ve seen this most recently where the RCMP prohibited the importation of the GSG-5 rimfire carbine. Despite sharing almost no commonality of design or parts, other than the fact they were both firearms, the GSG-5 was deemed to be a “variant” of the already prohibited H&K MP-5. The apparent downfall of the GSG-5 was its cosmetics. Like the AP-80, it had been manufactured to superficially resemble a larger, centerfire firearm; in its case the famed H&K SMG preferred by the elite US Navy SEALs and countless police SWAT teams.

Unfortunately, the question of whether or not the Mitchell Arms AK-22, and thus the Armi Jager AP-80, should have ever been included in “Special Prohibition Order #13,” as a named variant of the AK-47, is almost beside the point. The problem facing owners is that it was/is on the list right now. Certainly, it can be argued that the gun in question should never have been on the prohibited list, and there is a valid argument to make there, but one that will necessarily be fought in a court of law and at great financial cost.

However, as with the case of the recent Norinco Type 97A



AK-47



Armi-Jager AP-80

Origin	Purpose built military-issue service rifle; early Communist-bloc assault rifle	Civilian-market sporting rifle intended for hunting, plinking and similar recreational firearms activities.
Action	Gas-operated rotating bolt, with a fixed operating rod; selective fire.	Inertia blow-back, no fixed operating; semi-automatic only.
Receiver	Milled steel, newer types stamped & welded steel.	Cast and machined aluminum alloy.
Calibre	7.62x39mm centrefire	.22 LR rimfire
Empty Weight	Over 9.5 lbs (depending on design features and materials used)	Apporximately 55.5 lbs.
Parts	Many interchangeable with rifles in the AK-47 series	No parts interchangeable with any AK-47 series firearm.
Manufacturer	Various state factories in Soviet and Chinese (PRC) allied and supplied nations.	Armi-Jager of Italy

reference hearing and *R. v. Cancade*, the current tenor and composition of Canadian courts offers little opportunity for firearms owners to advance their interest using a court-based strategy. That isn't to say owners shouldn't make use of the legal options currently available to them. We urge all owners of affected firearms to exercise their legal rights and request a reference hearing immediately. That will buy time and prevent their firearm from being confiscated and destroyed in the short-term. It may well be that our legal counsel will agree that some sort of class-action legal challenge may offer a respectable chance of winning and that sufficient support from within the firearms community may be secured.

At the same time, additional political pressure will be brought to bear on government over this issue and the continuing anti-gun agenda being prosecuted by the RCMP. Obviously, machinations of the RCMP-run CFP these past months seems to be running directly counter to the clear intent of government to relax unnecessary gun control measures and not increase them.

For their part, the RCMP has been careful to obey the letter of the law, which gives them a measure of wiggle room and provides something of a technical defence.

However, the current situation is really indicative of much larger problems that urgently requires firm political action on the part of the Conservatives; that means first taking steps to enshrine property rights for all Canadians within the Charter, and secondly, replacing the Liberal C-68 Firearms Act itself. C-19 is a fine start on the latter problem, but it falls far short of what is necessary to protect the rights of lawful gun owners. For true justice to prevail, current AP-80 owners should never have been put in this position in the first place. Now that they are, it is an affront to justice that they find themselves stripped of their legally owned property without fair compensation. As the current case clearly shows, nothing less will serve to prevent a repeat of this unnecessary exercise in circular logic and emotion-driven hoplophobia that is at the root of the arbitrary prohibition of firearms in Canada.

TEAM NFA UPDATE

By Grayson Penney

ROB “FANG” ENGH



day; with their plane being delayed numerous times.

After all the delays, finally landing in Czech was like coming home to Rob. He had previously competed in a match there in 2010, and was eagerly looking forward to the small Level

III scheduled for the town of Hodonice, about 1.5 hours from Prague. If you remember from last issue, Rob had injured his knee, and it was still very sore. However, he wasn't about to miss out on the chance to compete in one of his favourite venues, and somehow was able to make a much better showing, placing 5th overall in Production Division, with Miroslav Zapletal winning the match overall. (Incidentally, Miroslav also won at the Canadian Nationals last year, and finished 10th in Greece at the Worlds.)

Our last TEAM NFA update for Rob brought us to the end of World Shoot competition. After the match Rob and his teammates took a few days to tour around the historic city of Rhodes, hit the local beaches and tour a number of the local ancient ruins. In Rob's own words, "Getting to walk around buildings that have been in place for a few thousand years is humbling when you consider how old Canada as a nation is."

With their post-World Shoot mini-R&R concluded, the gang headed to Athens to catch their plane for the next stop on their European competition tour. Unfortunately, like so many other travelers last fall, the country-wide strikes and walkouts finally caught up to Rob's group as they attempted to fly out of Athens on the last

According to Rob, the Czech shoot was much better organized and the stages were also of a much higher caliber than those offered by the Worlds, including numerous options for the shooter, well thought out and built courses, as well as properly working props. Rob even managed a stage win after Miroslav encouraged him to go for broke and engage a turning target after hitting the activator that moved it, instead of the typical "Production safe" way of shooting the turner, then the activator. Chuckling, Rob later mused that Miroslav is probably still kicking himself for the encouragement, as he would almost have been guaranteed to have won the stage had Rob not followed his advice and shot it his way.

The weather also proved to be perfect in Czech, with the morning being a bit chilly, but the sun shining overhead quickly warmed competitors and kept them comfortable all day. The great weather helped and Rob performed much closer to the level he normally shoots at, even with the knee injury. While Rob was happy with his performance and gave glowing reports about how much better the Czech stages were than Greece, the day ended on a tragic note when a fellow shooter from Poland collapsed from a heart attack on Stage 6. Despite herculean efforts at CPR by fellow shooters with First Responder training on-site, the unfortunate patient expired on the way to hospital. His loss served to put something of a damper on things, but life must go on.

Rob and his teammates decided to stay in Znojmo for a few extra days after the match, as they somehow managed to secure an invite to the CZ factory. No pictures were allowed in the factory due to security concerns, but Rob and the others did get to see everything from the lost wax castings being made to hammer-forged barrels being manufactured, frames and slides being machined, and all the little parts in between. According to Rob, the CZ factory is a great example of the old world meeting the new, with brand new multi-head CNC milling machines sitting beside 100 year-old lathes, and specialized machines. The group capped the day off at the factory firing range, where they got to shoot a few hundred rounds through a new model CZ Scorpion, in full auto! The test Scorpion was apparently a very controllable sub gun in 9mm, and quite popular with testers. If all goes well, Rob says, we may see a Canada-legal semi-auto version on our shores soon.

After the Czech match, and some additional R&R, Rob headed to Germany for the last leg of his European shooting tour. The Hessen Cup was held at a three-bay, indoor range in Huesenstam, just outside of Frankfurt. Thomas Schilling was the match director, and from all reports put on a heckuva' great match. Each bay at the range contained two stages. In the morning competitors shot each one individually, then after lunch, with a few minor changes, they were combined into one large stage on each bay. There were nine stages total, in a space that would have fit onto one of the medium stages in either Greece or Czech!

Describing the match, Rob noted that tight little hallways, small ports and other challenging positions were the highlight of this match. But as was normal for Rob by now, some minor bad luck was fated to make an appearance. Thankfully, unlike in the previous legs of the tour, no one got hurt or suffered cardiac arrest. Instead, thanks to a rather simple range officer mistake on some score sheets, Stage 9 was removed from the match. Rob, in turn, delivered a solid performance and took 6th place overall. Match Director Thomas Schilling proved to have a great sense of humor, and awarded Rob with a "special" Top Canadian medal and certificate for his top ten finish. One of the highlights of his trip, Rob saw the good-natured ribbing as just more proof of the fantastic camaraderie to be found within the international

The 9mm CZ 75 SP-01 is favoured by many top USPSA Production Division competitors, including TEAM NFA member Rob Eng.



IPSC community, and for him, remains one of the most rewarding parts of the sport.

Since his return to Canada, Rob has participated in a number of smaller regional matches and started hosting his popular "skills & drills" nights at his local club once again. Rob also attended a small match in Montreal in December, winning Production Division by 5%. At present, he is registered for the CZ Extreme Euro Open in June that will take place in the Czech Republic. Rob also hopes to attend at least one other match while over there, possibly in Austria or Norway.

With winter finally having arrived, Rob's season is ended, which means practice, practice, practice. Practice for Rob means daily dry fire drills, including draw and "click" using his shot timer (CED 7000Pro). In Rob's opinion, the use of a shot timer in dry practice is invaluable. Using the Par setting, (Par is when you set a maximum time on the timer for an end beep, e.g., Rob sets his it to 2.50 seconds when doing reload drills. That's draw on the start beep, dry fire, dump the empty mag, insert the fresh mag, get back on target and press the trigger again, before the end beep at 2.50 seconds) Rob can drill himself on reloads, draw and fire, table pick-ups, target transitions, transfer to his weak hand, or pretty much anything requiring muscle memory. A firm proponent of firearms safety, Rob cautions readers to always make sure to do any dry fire practice in a room with no live ammo, no live guns, and that you check your gun and magazines multiple times before starting. He also urges readers to make sure they are pointing their dry gun in a safe direction at all times. In order to stave off any potential marital discord, Rob also recommends that readers select an isolated room or area where their spouse can't hear the timer's beep. Apparently it can get pretty annoying really quick if you're not the shooter.

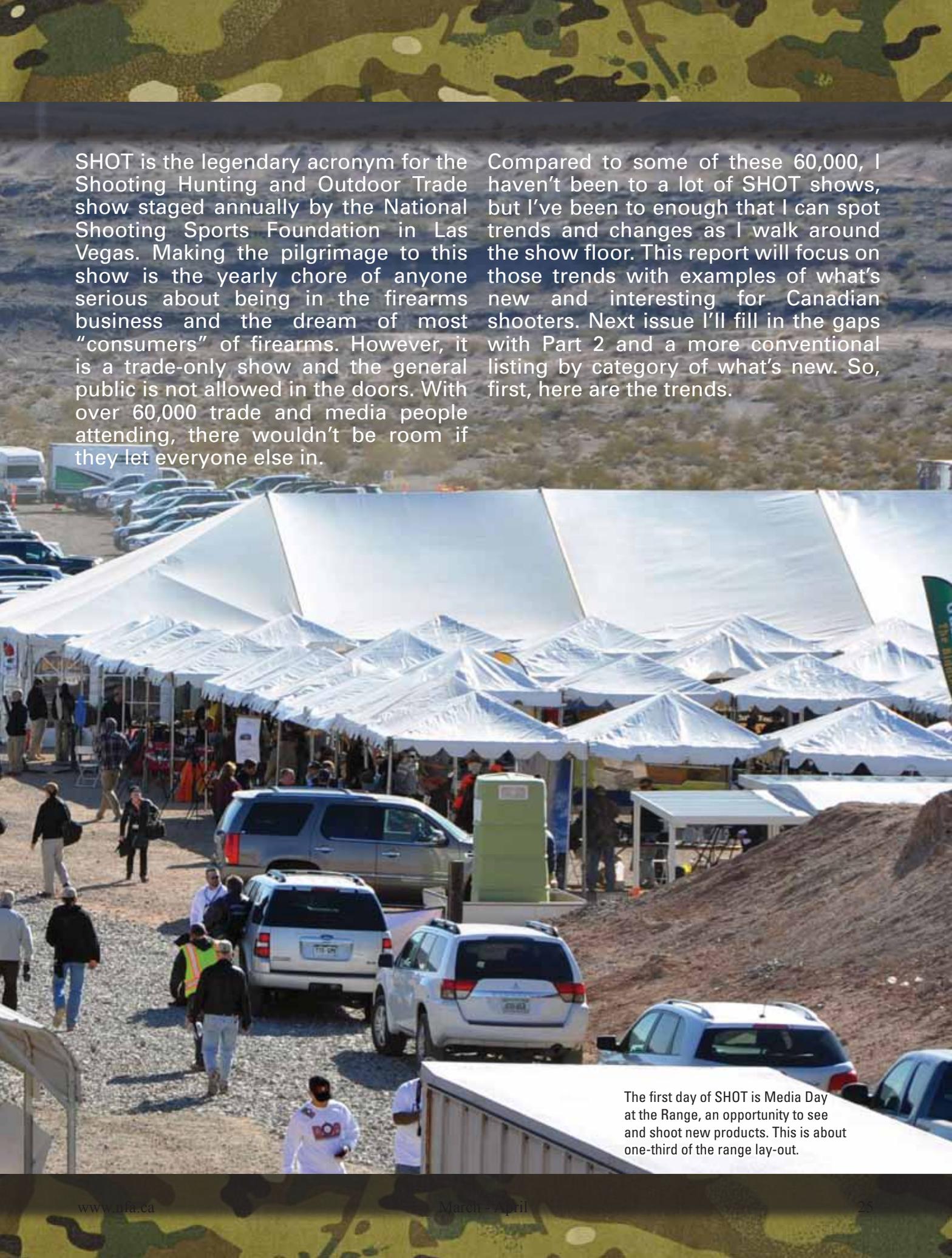
Editor's Note: *Due to space limitations, look for Matt & Megan's updates in the May-June issue of Canadian Firearms Journal.*

SHOT SHOW 2012

Part I

By Al Voth





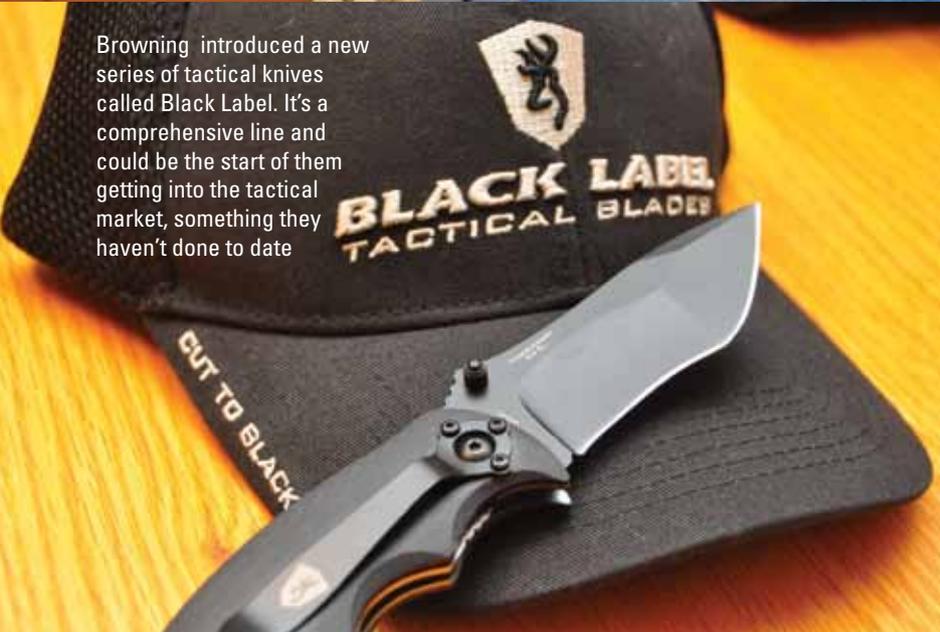
SHOT is the legendary acronym for the Shooting Hunting and Outdoor Trade show staged annually by the National Shooting Sports Foundation in Las Vegas. Making the pilgrimage to this show is the yearly chore of anyone serious about being in the firearms business and the dream of most “consumers” of firearms. However, it is a trade-only show and the general public is not allowed in the doors. With over 60,000 trade and media people attending, there wouldn't be room if they let everyone else in.

Compared to some of these 60,000, I haven't been to a lot of SHOT shows, but I've been to enough that I can spot trends and changes as I walk around the show floor. This report will focus on those trends with examples of what's new and interesting for Canadian shooters. Next issue I'll fill in the gaps with Part 2 and a more conventional listing by category of what's new. So, first, here are the trends.

The first day of SHOT is Media Day at the Range, an opportunity to see and shoot new products. This is about one-third of the range lay-out.



As apparent proof the tactical craze has gone too far, Mossberg was showing the 464 SPX, a tactical variant of their lever-action in 22 Long Rifle. You can get it with a muzzle-brake too.



Browning introduced a new series of tactical knives called Black Label. It's a comprehensive line and could be the start of them getting into the tactical market, something they haven't done to date

Tactical Time

That every manufacturer seems to have jumped on the tactical bandwagon is not a new trend, just a continuing one. There was tactical gear everywhere and tactical clothing, like that made by 5.11, appeared to be the default uniform of show goers. Even staid old companies like Browning, that have nothing more tactical in their line up than a trusty old Hi-Power, are getting in on the trend with a serious line of tactical knives. And as expected, it is being taken to the extreme in some cases, with the best example being a Mossberg lever action 22 in tactical dress. Tactical is becoming so pervasive that if one were to remove all the tactical, self-defence, law enforcement and military themed merchandise from show, you could hold SHOT in big high-school gymnasium.

Modular Manufacture

Again, this isn't a new trend, just a continuing one and the ingenuity of manufacturers knows no limits as it rises to new levels every year. There were more modular components for AR's than I could count, with the most interesting to me being a .177 air rifle upper by Crosman that drops onto your mil-spec lower for low- cost practice. Unfortunately, at \$750 the unit is far from inexpensive and about the only thing low-cost involved are the pellets it shoots. It is a quality piece, however, but under Canadian law it would necessarily remain a "range queen;" even with the air rifle upper, since it is the lower that is the registered half. That is the deal-breaker for most potential customers, although all bets are off should a gun-



Bottom Image: These "tactical" rifles are from none other than Anschutz. They are in 22 Long Rifle and probably shoot like every other Anschutz. Guesstimated Canadian price is \$900.



Changing a TC Dimension rifle from 223 Rem to 308 Win. Unlike some previous European bolt rifles with this kind of capability, the Dimension should be priced very reasonably—like around \$700-\$800.



The bolt, action, magazine and magazine housing for a TC Dimension rifle.



A Blade-Tech three-gun competition rig includes quick release magazine holders that will stack on top of each other so you can tailor your belt for each stage.

friendly government ever make the sensible decision to reclassify the AR-15 as non-restricted once again.

In an even more unconventional move, Thompson Center Arms introduced their Dimension bolt-action rifle. This was one of the stand-outs of the show in regards to originality, in that it's a bolt-action centre-fire rifle which allows the user to do complete calibre changes—including bolt, barrel and magazine housing. If this thing works as advertised it could be a game changer for the bolt-action rifle.

Concealed Carry

Virtually everything new among handgun manufacturers has to do with concealed carry. That's just a reflection of American legislative changes allowing more people to carry a firearm for personal protection. By definition, handguns designed for concealed carry need to be small and usually have barrels shorter than the 106 mm necessary to be allowed into Canada. Therefore, the selection of new model handguns we'll see in Canadian stores is pitifully small. And there's not much point in talking about prohibited handguns because the only people who will have them are gang-bangers.

Three-Gun Glitz

While IPSC, sporting clays and cowboy action are still popular shooting sports, the competition buzz around SHOT was related to three-gun. The people promoting this sport are doing a great job of making it spectator friendly, creating drama, getting big prize money and convincing the media to cover it. I'm going to go out on a limb and predict this shooting sport will explode in popularity over the next few years.

Unfortunately, the difference in firearm laws between us and the USA means most of the rifles and shotguns shown have legal issues in Canada because of design and/or magazine capacity. However, holsters aren't regulated in Canada yet, and at Blade-Tech I found what looks like a great competition rig. Attached to the usual inner and

out belt is a quick on-off system that allows the competitor to attach and remove the pieces he needs for each stage. On a rifle stage, pop off the pistol mag-holders and pop on the rifle ones—likewise for shotgun. Even the holster will snap off. And if you need everything on your belt, the holders will stack so you can carry it all.

Precision Placement

Precision rifles are a growing trend at SHOT, but seemingly only in the tactical category. If you start looking for benchrest or Palma rifles you'll be searching a long time; but precision rifles with a tactical flair are around every corner. Mostly, these are bolt-action rifles with black or green stocks and telescopic sights only a little smaller than Hubble. But they do shoot well.

Suppressor Sightings

American's can own and shoot suppressors if they pay a \$200 tax on the item. That used to be a pricey burden, but inflation has largely fixed that problem and so suppressors are becoming more common. As a result, more firearms are being built with barrels already threaded for these attachments. Of course, for Canadian shooters it's all irrelevant. Nothing to see here folks, just move along... unless you consider the Canadian manufacturer at the show selling a Canada-legal version of a suppressed weapons system. Really!

Okay, maybe I'm pulling your leg just a little. But it is one way to think of a crossbow. The Excalibur line of

Top: The author shoots the latest version of an FNH Ballista, that company's modular, precision rifle competing for the US SOCOM contract. Swap various components to shoot 308, 300 Win Mag or 338 Lapua.

Center: Remington made a big deal of their contract win to supply the US Army with a precision rifle. Calibre is 300 Win Mag.

Bottom: Every day at 2:00 pm Laszlo Klementis of Modular Driven Technologies was at the Brownells booth showing how to build a rifle using the Canadian TAC 21 chassis





Excalibur's Eclipse XT comes in a complete package with everything shown here. It's the closest Canadians can get to a suppressed system.

crossbows is made in Canada and they are legal and effective hunting tools that can reach out at least 50 metres. Their new Eclipse XT will deliver a 350 grain arrow at 330 fps.

AR Everything

I should have kept track of how many booths were offering versions of the AR rifle or accessories for it—it must have been close to half. The AR is the darling rifle of the American market and if you look at my list of trends you can see why; it's tactical, modular, capable of great precision, suppressor friendly and perfect for three-gun competition. The only trend category it misses is concealment. In a way I feel sorry for the AR manufacturers. While the market for their product is hot, the competition is so intense they must have a tremendously difficult time standing out from the crowd.

Canadian Content

In my opinion, the best trend I saw at the show was the amount of Canadian content I observed in the booths and the hallways. I've never seen so many Canadians manning booths or walking the aisles. Even the person who registered me at the media desk commented on the number of Canadians he had logged in. I saw Canadian eyewear from Revision, lights from Armytek, rangefinders from Newcon Optik, optical weapon sights from ELCAN, crossbows from Excalibur and chassis systems from Modular Driven Technologies. And there was more. It's all good news for us shooters.

Next issue we'll, look at more new products, but break them down into categories (rifle, handgun, optics, ammo etc.)



Editor's Note: I'd like to express my appreciation to Al for stepping up at the last minute and filling in for me at SHOT. Unfortunately, an unexpected illness forced me to miss the entire show, but as you can see above, Canadian Firearms Journal was more than ably represented. Many thanks Al. - Sean

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Member's Soapbox:

Political Correctness & Commonsense Policing

By NFA Member Thomas E. Lamont

Let us say that I have now reached the age where I am older than most of the police officers I meet. Or in other words, I can remember when most peace officers were of the rough-hewn type they hang medals on for valour on some foreign battlefield. These officers were tough-as-nails, yet fair, and rarely tolerated fools or cowards. They were also brash and often insensitive, but they could always be counted on when the chips were down and when action was required, they did not hesitate.

In short, they were the living antithesis of the self-aware, emotionally-sensitive, politically correct law-enforcement professional most often recruited today. While balance in all things is good, I do not believe our public safety has been well-served by the forces of political correctness that seem to have dominated the recruiting process over the past couple of decades. I'm sorry, I know I may offend some readers, but I don't pretend to be politically correct and call them as I see them. And since this is my "soapbox" I intend to be perfectly honest about the subject of common sense policing. In this regard, I'm of the opinion that the sissified recruiting and training standards used by our police colleges have erroneously led administrators to adopt the gospel of Dennis Tueller

- as repeated by my fellow soapbox contributor Jon McCormick in the July/August issue of *Canadian Firearms Journal* – that a police officer is virtually powerless to stop a knife wielding assailant, who will almost certainly succeed in stabbing them, if permitted within a 21 foot radius. Hogwash!

All I can say is that it is a good thing that fifth-graders are not allowed to sit on juries where Sgt. Tueller's rule is in play. I fear few prosecutors would be able to convince such a jury that in a game of touch tag they'd have already lost the game before they even started, if their school-yard chum chosen to be "it" enjoyed a 21 foot head start. How about more organized sports? If that fifth grader was a baseball player would the Crown be informed that well-thrown fast balls reaches the batter in considerably less than a second and a half? I wonder, would Dennis Tueller perhaps be laughed out of the courtrooms if there was a boxing fan on the jury? To my mind the 21' rule simply does not hold up and shouldn't factor into any subsequent deliberations.

Law professor Ralph Young is of the opinion that whoever puts on the best dog-and-pony show for the judge/jury wins the day. Years ago, lawyer Gerry Spence, in the trial of the State of

Wyoming vs. Ed Cantrell; certainly put that particular belief to the test. Granted what would be an unheard of degree of leeway today, Spence successfully staged his own armed exhibition for the court, recruiting Bill Jordan, the famed lawman and latter-day gunfighter, for the scenario. Spence provided Jordan, and the bailiff assigned to the court, a single action revolver loaded with blank cartridges. The bailiff was to hold his cocked pistol trained on Jordan, who was to have his pistol in the holster. The bailiff was to shoot if he thought Jordan was attempting to draw. It was not a fair "fight." Jordan, using a double action revolver, could regularly draw, fire and hit a target in just .27 of a second.

Given the nod, the then 69 year-old Bill Jordan drew his single-action pistol and fired. The cocked gun of the bailiff, who I believe was allowed to have his finger on the trigger, failed to react in time and did not discharge his pistol. The implication of this is crystal clear; if you have the reactions of a sack of flour do not become a police officer! Take up hairdressing, try sales, become a plumber; basically anything that doesn't involve the potential use of deadly force! At least, that is, if you desire having a better than average probability of going home to your spouse and children at night.

So where have all the Bill Jordans gone? It must be tough being an instructor at police colleges these days – an age where few of your students have ever used a firearm, let alone heard a shot fired in anger or engaged in a genuine life-or-death conflict with either beast or man. Given current law enforcement hit ratios and actual combat performance; I have to wonder would our officer trainees be better served through more time on the firing range and in the gymnasium; and less classroom time exploring the nuances of such *malum prohibitum* * statutory diarrhoea, such as the Liberal's C-68 Firearms Act; legislation that has only succeeded in turning law-abiding gun owners into paper criminals?

Really, wouldn't the public good be better served by putting more boots on the ground, in the worst crime areas in the country, and actually focusing on taking real criminals off the street instead of manufacturing additional paper ones? Toronto's "Operation Safe City" is a case in point. Instead of putting drug dealers and gang bangers in jail, the Toronto Police Service concentrated on widows and senior citizens who forgot to renew their firearms licence! How does this make our "mean" streets safer?

Senior law-enforcement officials just don't get it. In my opinion, the RCMP lost the support of Canadians the first time a SWAT team went out to deal with an expired firearms license. The RCMP lost the support of Canadians the first time they refused to issue a carry permit for a restricted firearm to a rural Canadian. (How fast can a bear, cougar, wolf or feral Russian boar, elk or moose, perhaps overloaded on maternal/macho hormones, cover that last 21 feet Mr. Tueller?) The RCMP lost the support of Canadians the first time charges were laid against a citizen who made an arrest using no more than reasonable force, as common sense and the circumstances dictated. Whatever happened to the RCMP officers like Superintendent Tommy Caulkin, who

used to tell his men, "No court case if possible?"

While we hear about the Dale Singletons and the Ian Thomsons, we do not hear about the times peace officers who respect the rights of responsible citizens who use reasonable force to protect themselves, their families, their livelihoods/property and their communities. Twenty years ago, whilst in a business establishment, I commented on a boarded up window. It seems that some young "gentlemen" had decided to patronize the business after hours and preferred the window for entry.

As any police instructor will tell you, response time is everything; while the lady of the house phoned the police, the man of the house investigated the "noise in the store." He discovered an ad hoc "bucket brigade" of "customers" loading merchandise into a pick-up truck. The after-hours "customers" were advised that the store was closed and to immediately cease and desist their "shopping," and to wait for the police - who had been called to "better service" their particular customer care needs. A hastily appointed spokesman for the "customers" replied that there were three of them and that the shop owner was but one old man. The threat implied was more than palpable.

Interestingly enough, years ago I was told about several legal concepts, including the "defence of necessity." I was also taught that actions are sometimes better than words. Unfortunately, such actions inevitably lead to hard questions with equally elusive answers. For instance, would the discharge of a 12 gauge shotgun harmlessly into the gravel of the street meet the standards required of the aforementioned legal defence? There is no question such an action proved to be a revelation to the after-hours customers, who then quickly considered themselves under arrest and lost all interest in "shopping" or doing bodily harm. Their demeanour changed so much that they went so far as to

express their delight at the arrival of police officers, who only arrived on the scene much later. The police officers agreed, tongue-firmly-in-cheek, with the detainees that the business owner was indeed "crazy," and it was a good thing the police had been called.

So, the question then is, how many *malum prohibitum* laws did the business owner contravene? Reckless discharge of a firearm within town limits? Unsafe storage of a firearm? Pointing a firearm? Possession of a weapon dangerous to the public? Causing unfortunate mental discomfort to misunderstood crooks? Or perhaps, were the property values in the town devalued by this Wild West scenario? Could we keep a welfare state legal system busy for years with all the possible permutations of potential broken statues? Would the actions of this citizen make for a less safe community?

At the time I heard the story, the freshly apprehended thieves had been charged with break, enter, and theft. The business owner was considered to have made a legitimate citizen's arrest and was not charged. In fact, he was considered something of a local hero. At the time, the responding officers recognized that the business owner had acted responsibly in the absence of police protection, and had exercised his legitimate right to protect himself, his family and his property. The investigating officers exercised good judgement in not recommending the laying of charges against the business owner. At the very least, a tip of the hat to the officer's involved was most certainly due.

We need a return to such common sense policing and a command structure and force that is capable of handling the tough calls, when they come, but also have the strength of character, common sense, and leeway to make similar calls for those of us living in the modern age, political correctness be damned. That is the kind of world view and type of cop we need to see graduating from Depot, *Soapbox - Continued on page 47*



SILENCE IS GOLDEN:

The Case for Legal Ownership of Firearm Suppressors

By Charles Schafer

Sound mufflers (AKA suppressors, noise attenuators, silencers) are already an integral part of the everyday lives of most Canadians. Their association with everything from motor vehicles to lawn mowers recognizes our society's preference for reducing noise pollution and for protecting the hearing of users of noisy devices from potentially harmful sources of impulse sound. In several western countries (e.g., Finland and Norway), this philosophy has been extended to the use of firearm suppressors for various competitive shooting sports and hunting.

Among other benefits, the main function of a suppressor is to reduce (but not completely eliminate) the amplitude of a firearm's muzzle blast. In that respect, it is distinctive from a silencer which is designed to deal with both muzzle blast impulse sound and the sharp ballistic crack-like sound made by a supersonic velocity bullet as it passes through the air just after exiting the barrel of a gun. These two features likely explain why silencers can often be found in the tool kits of police departments and federal law-enforcement agencies and military arsenals around the world.

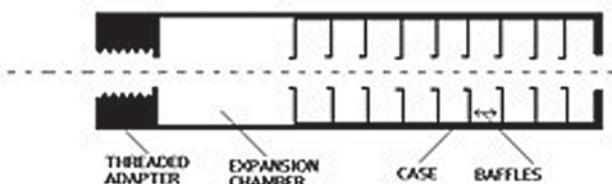
Since a functional suppressor can be made with simple basement workshop tools in just a few hours (see the technical sections of David Truby's 1972 book entitled "Silencers, Snipers and Assassins: An Overview of Whispering Death"

or just do a Google search on two words: silencer books), and because Canada's criminal element obviously has access to more sophisticated machine shop talent to manufacture more advanced designs, current Canadian prohibitions make little sense. They certainly offer little impediment to criminal elements interested in either the illegal manufacture or use of these otherwise safety-related devices.

As such, Canada's current regulations prohibiting civilian possession and use of firearm suppressors are realistically only effective in denying such technology to the members of Canada's law-abiding shooting sports community; those least likely to break the law and most likely to comply with existing regulations, no matter how illogical or inane. Consider this: If current laws and enforcement infrastructure cannot keep illegal drugs out of Canadian communities, then the odds are that anyone wishing to purchase or manufacture a suppressor or silencer for criminal purposes can likely be accommodated at any given time through similarly criminal sources.

There are several legal alternatives available that may aid in reducing muzzle blast noise, and minimizing the crack made by a supersonic bullet, especially for rifles and shotguns. The most popular of these are reduced power loads that have just enough powder to fully expand the gasses produced by the burning powder just before the bullet leaves the barrel. A number of manufacturers also offer "subsonic" loads that provide a similar level of performance, however, their projectile does not go transonic, which may or may not be the case for a reduced load. That said, many of my own indoor range experiences, standing next to a shooter using a long-barreled .22 caliber rifle, confirms that such alternatives can substantially reduce a firearm's muzzle blast and accompanying noise levels. So much so that in some cases

Basic Suppressor Design



it can be reduced to a level that is safe for use around an unprotected ear, such as is typically found in most hunting situations.

Unfortunately, virtually all larger caliber commercial cartridges of the type used for big game hunting, long distance competition and target shooting produce bullet velocities that are typically more than two to three times the speed of sound, and together with their muzzle blast are definitely in the harmful sound category. In such instances, loading down to subsonic levels is simply impossible, and may be potentially dangerous. As such, hunters are forced to make a choice between protecting their hearing and hunting success. Wearing standard shooting muffs, ear plugs and similar protective gear is simply not practical in the field, while custom molded ear plug inserts and electronic devices such as the Walker "Game Ear," are too expensive or again, impractical, for use in the bush. Yet many European hunters are not forced to make such a "Sophie's Choice," but are instead legally required to utilize a sound suppressor of some sort while afield. Are European hunters that much more trustworthy than Canadian hunters or safer than North American shooters? If not, why the silly double standard?

Rules and regulations pertaining to the ownership and use of suppressors vary considerably, even among those western nations that permit and even encourage their application for civilian shooting sports activities. In Finland and Norway, suppressors and silencers are unregulated. According to Al Paulson

(see: www.CanadianTractical.ca/PaulsonArticle1.html), the widespread use of suppressors in Finland has not led to their increased appearance in either crime or poaching incidents. If crime and population density (e.g., urban vs. rural settings) are directly correlated then, given the fact that Canada's average population density per square kilometer is about five times lower than that of Finland and Norway, I am inclined to predict that the passage of new Canadian regulations allowing for regulated civilian use of suppressors in the shooting sports would most likely produce crime statistics similar to, or better than those already observed in the more densely populated countries of Scandinavia.

In Sweden, suppressors for certain calibers are legal for hunting, but a license (that is almost always granted) is required. Suppressor purchases in Britain require the presentation of the registration certificate for the firearm on which the device is to be attached. The Wikipedia web page on suppressors notes that police forces in Britain typically approve applications for a suppressor purchase for hunting and target shooting because the risks of litigation for personal injury (e.g., high-tone deafness) resulting from shooting-induced hearing loss can be significant. The apparent suppressor-purchasing situation in Poland is somewhat ironic in that suppressors can be legally purchased by anyone, but mounting them on a firearm is illegal.

In the United States, suppressors and silencers are included in the definition of a firearm in the US National Firearms

Act that came into effect in 1934. They are perfectly legal to purchase, but their legitimate use for hunting and other shooting sports varies from one state to another. The US suppressor purchase procedure involves completing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Form 4473 – a six page-long background check document that does not seem to be as intrusive as the one that a cross-border traveler completes for a NEXUS card. Fingerprints and a one-time \$200 tax payment are also required (see: www.ncsilencers.com).

What is even sillier about the current situation is that we aren't discussing "new technology" here. In fact, the first serious development of firearm suppressors started at about the beginning of the 20th century. In March 1908, Hiram Maxim patented the first useful silencer and produced the first off-center design in 1910. The off-center model could be used with a rifle's conventional open sights. According to Trudy (1972), Parker-Hale in England produced suppressors for several sporting and target guns prior to World War II. In a later chapter of his book, he goes on to describe that the sound amplitude recorded three feet from the muzzle of a Winchester Model 70 converted to .45 caliber and equipped with a suppressor was recorded at 55 decibels, as opposed to 128 decibels without the suppressor. He also remarks that back in 1934 the price of a Maxim silencer, at a shooter's favorite American hardware store, was about four dollars. In 1970, the advertised purchase price for a suppressor in France and Australia was on the order of five to eight dollars, as opposed to about \$300 in the USA. Current prices for factory-produced silencers and suppressors in North America range from about \$250 to \$650 for some 9mm pistols, and about \$600 to \$650 for the AR-15 and some 7.62 mm caliber rifles (see: www.firearmsdeals.com). That cost is still considerably less than you might expect given the approximately 10 times decrease in purchasing power that the US and Canadian dollar have suffered over the past 45 years. Safe and effective home workshop suppressor designs that are described in many books can likely be



constructed for as little as \$50 to \$100 dollars, and could offer a less costly option if Canada's laws can be changed to allow their licensed possession by the civilian shooting sports community.

In addition to preserving the hearing sensitivity of target shooters, hunters and their dogs (especially some of us older guys and gals that are losing some hearing sensitivity as part of normal aging), the use of suppressors that reduce the muzzle blast of a high powered rifle or shotgun to a safer level comes with many other advantages that, in some cases, might not be all that apparent. For example, they can reduce the tendency of a shooter to flinch after the first shot – a reaction that can disturb the aim of immediately subsequent shots. Suppressors appear to have little appreciable effect on bullet velocity, and are reported to be quite effective in producing tighter bullet hit groupings.

A big plus mentioned by Jim Dickson (Gun World Magazine blog) concerns rifle recoil. He notes that tests of a SAKO .30-06 rifle fitted with a GMS silencer and using factory ammo have recorded as much as a 75% reduction in felt recoil. In addition to reducing the risk of hearing damage to both hunter and dog, the use of a suppressor also serves to minimize disturbance to other game and reduces or eliminates the temporary deafness that hunter's often experience after firing a shot. Suppressors also essentially avoid the need to wear ear protection that can reduce the hunter's sense of what animal and human activities are active in the surrounding area (i.e.,

a significant contribution to hunter safety), while permitting the use of larger and often more effective cartridges.

In Canada, the law pertaining to firearm suppressor and silencer-type devices is found in Part III of the Criminal Code. They are defined in the Code as, "a device or contrivance designed or intended to muffle or stop the sound or report of a firearm and are classified as prohibited devices." This designation does not imply that they are totally prohibited, because I suspect that they are available to police and other government agencies to reduce the long-term deleterious effects of loud pulsed sound exposure to their shooter's hearing (what else?). In addition, a large number of grandfathered Canadian shooters enjoy the possession and use of prohibited guns precisely because of the way that they are regulated in our country.

A challenge for the 21st century Canadian shooting sports community is to muster political support to have the designation of firearms suppressors (especially for long arms) changed from prohibited to restricted status. This would at least permit their range use. However, having suppressors entirely deregulated, and making them available to hunters and target shooters makes the most sense. High volume varmint shooters and magnum rifle big game hunters would most certainly be very appreciative of such a common sense reform to current firearm regulations. Unfortunately, logic rarely enters into such ill-informed, emotion-driven debates.



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

Even a simple reclassification to restricted that would permit licensed shooters to purchase and use Canada-legal suppressive devices would be a bonus to tens of thousands of regular shooters across the country. This is especially true for gun clubs located near residential developments, or who have seen growing urban sprawl turn their formerly remote gun ranges into a source of suburban discontent amongst noise-sensitive neighbours. That simple change in designation would place Canadian legislation essentially on par with some current US regulations, but would still leave it more restrictive than the laws of Norway, Finland and similar European countries. Ideally, they could simply be regulated under current licensing provisions and their sale and use legalized. For hunting or field use, provincial laws could easily dictate for what shooting sports activities suppressors would be legal to use, i.e., hunting.

Recent efforts by the current Conservative government to finally eliminate the costly and ineffective long gun registry suggests that the Canadian shooting sports community may see the return of common sense to the gun control debate. Hopefully, the end of the long gun registry will mark the beginning of a new age for Canadian shooting sports that will see government eliminate much of the needless red-tape and pointless over-regulation that has served to stifle the recreational use of firearms for decades.

In addition to the reduction in noise pollution and positive health-care benefits, there is a strong monetary argument in

favour of legalizing the use and ownership of suppressors. Our current Medicare system won't be stuck treating the hundreds of cases of hearing damage that is directly attributable to firearms usage; while there is also an opportunity to vastly expand the rather limited Canadian market for such devices. If positive changes to the current prohibited status of civilian suppressor ownership and use regulations could be achieved, Canadian suppliers and manufacturers of these devices would undoubtedly enjoy a major increase in business and gain access to a virtually untapped civilian shooting sports community of millions.

So, the question is: Where should the shooting sports community go from here? Anthropologists have often defined humanity as being the makers of tools, rules and moral judgments. I've chosen to interpret this definition rather broadly and believe that we all have a role to play in crafting the regulations that dictate how and what we can and cannot do in the pursuit of our daily lives. The definition suggests that collaboration among suppressor manufacturers, shooting sports organizations (such as the NFA) and shooting clubs and associations throughout Canada in lobbying our members of parliament for more permissive and sensible suppressor regulations may be a strategy whose time has come? Of course for this initiative to succeed, silence is not an option.

Photos: Courtesy of A-1 Tactical Ordinance, St. Petersburg, Florida





GUN JOBS: FORENSIC EXAMINER

By Al Voth

This issue we're going to look at the profession of forensic firearm examiner; an obscure gun job until television series like CSI catapulted it into public awareness. At the height of the CSI craze there were five hundred applications for any job posting at a forensic lab, and every one of those applicants expected the work to be just like what they saw on TV. I know, because I retired a few months ago from over two decades of work in a forensic laboratory and spoke with many of those applicants.

That recent job experience means I can "interview" myself to tell you about working as a forensic firearms examiner. And since it's often challenging to get anyone working for government to be publicly frank about their career, talking to a recently retired employee is often the best approach.

Forensic laboratories are divided into sections that each conduct different examinations. Firearms Section is one of those and will handle tasks that include matching bullets and cartridge cases back to the gun that fired them, doing mechanical assessments on firearms, determining a firearm's legal classification, restoring obliterated serial numbers, conducting range determinations and reconstructing the path of fired bullets at crime scenes and autopsies. Additionally, firearms examiners conduct toolmark examinations in which they try to determine if a particular tool (bolt cutter, screwdriver, pliers etc.) made the questioned marks. That firearms examiners conduct toolmark examinations is surprising to some people, but the two examinations are really identical. When a firing pin strikes a primer and leaves a mark behind, it is just another tool—exactly like a

Gun Jobs is a series of articles about firearm-centred professions. We'll be talking to people who spend their working day with their hands on firearms. We'll find out what they like about their jobs, what they don't, what it takes to get into these careers and even how much they money they make. If you are interested in a firearm profession or just curious about what one might be like, stay with us as we cover the ones you'd expect and some you've never thought of.

screwdriver prying open a cash box—and the same examination principles apply.

Right now there are approximately thirty-five forensic firearm examiners working in Canada, all of them employees of public/government agencies. As you might expect, the RCMP employs the majority at its laboratories in Halifax, Regina and Vancouver. The QPP and the OPP both maintain firearms sections as well, with Vancouver and Calgary's municipal police agencies also keeping examiners on staff. There are a few private examiners in Canada, but like me they are all retired from public service.

Another result of the CSI craze has been the granting of forensic degrees by universities. However, this is one profession you can't learn in school and anyone accepted into a forensic position can count on a couple of years of in-house training. A degree in forensic science, while useful, is not necessary to start a career in this profession. Most agencies will consider applicants with other science degrees, such as engineering or physics. However, these requirements often change and vary between agencies, so prospective employees should talk directly to the agency they are interested in working for.

If previous work experience or personal interest has resulted in an applicant being knowledgeable about firearms already, that's certainly a plus. The vast majority of people who apply these days and most who are hired have almost no experience with firearms.

But what's the work like? First, and because of CSI, I'll tell you what it's not like. Firearm examiners



Essential to the work of a forensic lab is a reference collection of firearms.

Forensic examiners have to deal with work from the worst "gunsmiths" in the country

Breech face marks on two fired cartridge cases as seen through a comparison microscope.



and the clothing worn by the victim. Add to that multiple test shots from a range of distances and chemical tests to highlight various components of the gunshot residue pattern on the victim's clothes and it becomes a slow, detailed and tedious task. That's the real world of forensics.

Most examiners would be ecstatic if the work ended in the lab. However, like all jobs, there's the paperwork. In forensics, producing a written report giving a clear and impartial explanation of the examiner's findings is a key skill. The investigator and the courts will rely heavily on that report and if the case goes to trial the examiner can be challenged on every word written in its pages. As a result, much time and effort goes into writing, checking and proof reading forensic reports. You never see that on CSI do you?

And then there's court, which is likely the least favourite activity of most examiners. Most would be content never to appear as a witness, but the reality is that forensic examiners appear in court often. Personally, I've given evidence in nine provinces and territories and I could add a few more yet. Even after retirement, I'm subject

don't drive Hummers, work under blue lights, wear leather pants/skirts and can't solve every crime in one hour. But then you probably figured that out already. What you might not know is that forensic firearm examiners never have any contact with the suspect and only occasionally go to a crime scene. Take those two components out of any TV show and there isn't much left. What remains, is the real world.

A typical working day starts like that of any other office worker with the powering up of a computer, checking e-mail and planning the day. After that it's off to the lab area to pick up an exhibit and work on a case. A typical case might involve a firearm found on an accused and suspected of being

involved in a shooting. The examiner is asked to determine whether the gun functions, what its legal status is, whether it fired the cartridge cases and bullets found at the crime scene and the distance between victim and shooter when the shots were fired.

One case like this could easily be a week's worth of effort as the examiner works through each step, carefully documenting everything with notes and photographs. With the added requirement in many labs, that any identification made on the microscope must be checked and confirmed by another examiner. Those distance determinations can be especially vexing as the examiner must do his/her best to duplicate the ammunition used



Establishing the path of a fired bullet can produce interesting findings. Here a bullet carried along a piece of plastic as it embedded into drywall.

The restoration of an obliterated serial number.



best possible work. After all, it's their career on the line every time they write a report or go to court. Fortunately, management is also committed to seeing the best possible work produced, however they add the proviso that it must be done at the lowest possible cost. Both agree quality work requires training, staffing and physical resources but the two different perspectives of what is needed to produce the desired quality forms the root of most of a firearms examiner's frustrations. Any firearm examiner will tell you there is never enough money for training, more examiners must be hired and needed equipment isn't available.

To the best of my knowledge, all the firearms examiners currently working in Canada are not uniform-wearing police officers but civilian employees of their agencies. Traditionally, a senior examiner has been considered the equivalent of a Sergeant in the uniformed ranks and current salaries are in the \$80,000 a year range. Benefits vary between agencies, but are usually very comprehensive.

Is it a good gun job? You better believe it. No one will get rich doing it, but for those who enjoy working with firearms it's one of the best careers out there. Just remember it's nothing like what you see on TV.

The author blogs on hunting and shooting topics at www.coyoteschool.blogspot.com

to being called back on cases I worked and that are still plodding through the court system.

Case work as I've described is the daily routine of a forensic examiner. But there are occasional perks like doing research projects, going to forensic conferences and getting paid to go to the SHOT show. One of my favourite perks was the gun magazines we subscribed to. The government paid me to read gun magazines so that I could stay informed on what was happening in the firearms industry. Can't beat that!

One of the most satisfying aspects of the job is getting to solve puzzles. Unlike many forensic disciplines, like DNA which has become production

line labour, firearms work still retains much of that start-to-finish work pattern. This means you can start at a crime scene or autopsy, handle and shoot the suspect gun, do the bullet comparisons, establish a distance for the shot(s) into the victim and go to court to defend your findings. Working through the entire forensic puzzle gives firearms examiners more ownership of the case than any other forensic discipline and thus provides more job satisfaction.

Naturally, there are frustrations too, and in forensics they often relate to an inherent conflict between workers and management. Forensics is a field with no room for error and therefore examiners always strive to put out the



The International Front

GENOCIDE, THE UN AND GUN CONTROL



By Gary Mauser

Governments have deliberately killed far more people between wars than were killed in wars during the twentieth century. Almost six times as many people were murdered at the hands of those working for government than died in battle in the last century. Governments can help make people's lives better, but they can also turn deadly. By continuing its efforts to disarm civilians, the United Nations is undermining, not protecting, democracy.

The best estimate is that governments murdered 262 million people during the 20th century. This total murdered includes the millions of Jews gassed by the Nazis in the Holocaust as well as additional millions of Ukrainians, Chinese, Cambodians, and others slaughtered by Communists. Does this surprise? It shouldn't. There is no dispute that governments have murdered millions of their own citizens during the 20th century; experts however quarrel over the exact number of murders.

Power and Genocide

Why do governments murder their own people? One idea put forward by the Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership is gun control precipitates genocide. Before government can massacre its citizens, they need to be disarmed. A related idea, put forward by Professor RJ Rummel, is more persuasive: power kills. By this he means the disparity of power. The larger the gap between governmental power and that of the people, the more likely that government will decide to systematically murder some of its people. Clearly, armed civilians have power.

Tyrannies or dictatorships are more likely to murder their own citizens, for example Soviet Russia or Nazi Germany. The Nazis methodically murdered millions of Jews, and Communist governments deliberately slaughtered millions (such as the Ukrainian Holodomar under Stalin, and the 'Great Leap Forward' under Mao).

On the other hand, few democracies commit genocide. Democracy means more than just elections. In democracies there is freedom of speech and press, and individuals are free to criticize the government. Importantly, democracy involves free markets and competitive elections. Rummel argues

that the more democratic a country is the less likely it is to indulge in mass murder. Some exemplary democracies are: Australia, Canada, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and United States. Such governments do not just fall from the sky. They are created and maintained by mature, responsible citizens who take their democratic responsibilities seriously. One litmus test of such countries is that they trust their citizens with firearms.

Since democracies are much less likely to engage in mass murder (or genocide) than tyrannies, one might think that the UN would promote policies that empower citizens and strengthen democracy. Unfortunately that is untrue. For many reasons, the UN tends to support policies that strengthen dictatorial non-democratic regimes.

Preventing genocide was one of the reasons motivating the creation of the United Nations after World War II. The founders were horrified by the Jewish holocaust. Unfortunately, the UN has not been successful in stopping governments from killing their own citizens. Since World War II massacres or genocides have occurred in Cambodia (1970s), Guatemala (1960s), Rwanda (1990s), Somalia (2000s), and China (1960s, 1970s), and others. In each case, the UN was silent or complicit.

The United Nations has failed to live up to its founders' hopes for many reasons. The UN has grown increasingly bureaucratic even as it has become more ineffectual. In 1952, the UN created what became the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs to reduce the risk of nuclear war, but mission creep soon took over. Since the UN couldn't stop the proliferation of nuclear armaments, the bureaucracy soon began eyeing other weapons. Currently, the UN's goals include eliminating chemical and biological weapons, land mines, and small arms. Ominously, the definition of "small arms" has been stretched from military weapons, such as machine guns, to include all civilian firearms and ammunition.

UN's Drive for World Disarmament

The UN is committed to disarming civilians even though the most democratic governments in the world encourage firearms ownership. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

The JPFO Genocide Chart

(© JPFO.org 2002)

This is derived from the JPFO [website page](#) - as a more printer-friendly option. The complete web page is accompanied by a detailed promotion of the Death by "Gun Control" book, written by Aaron Zelman and Richard W. Stevens - and available from the [JPFO store](#) . It works on a level that nobody can dispute: documented world history.

Here's the Formula: **Hatred + Government + Disarmed Civilians = Genocide**

What makes the argument so powerful? Two factors. First, it makes common sense: unarmed defenseless people have no hope against armed aggressors. Second, it states the historical truth: evil governments did wipe out 170,000,000 innocent non-military lives in the 20th Century alone. See the film "Innocents Betrayed" for further chilling evidence, also available from the [JPFO store](#).

When the gun prohibitionists quote a statistic about how many people are killed by firearms misuse, the discussion sometimes bogs down into whose crime statistics to believe and how to count crimes vs. the defensive firearm uses.

In the 20th Century:

- Governments murdered four times as many civilians as were killed in all the international and domestic wars combined.
- Governments murdered millions more people than were killed by common criminals.

How could governments kill so many people? The governments had the power - and the people, the victims, were unable to resist. The victims were unarmed.

Government	Dates	Targets	Civilians Killed	"Gun Control" Laws	Features of Over-all "Gun Control" scheme
Ottoman Turkey	1915-1917	Armenians (mostly Christians)	1 - 1.5 Million	Art 166, Pen Code 1866 & 1911 Proclamation, 1915	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permits required • Government list of owners • Ban on possession
Soviet Union	1929-1945	Political Opponents; Farming communities	20 Million	Resolutions, 1918 Decree, July 12, 1920 Art. 59 & 182, Pen. Code, 1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing of owners • Ban on possession • Severe penalties
Nazi Germany & Occupied Europe	1933-1945	Political Opponents; Jews; Gypsies; Critics; "examples"	20 Million	Laws on Firearms & Ammun.. 1928 Weapon Law, March 18, 1938 Reg's against Jews, 1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration & Licensing • Stricter handgun laws • Ban on possession
China, Nationalist	1927-1949	Political Opponents; Army conscripts; others	10 million	Art. 205. Crim Code, 1914 Art, 186-87, Crim Code, 1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government permit system • Ban on private ownership
China, Red	1949-1952 1957-1960 1966-1976	Political Opponents; Rural populations; Enemies of the State	20 - 35 Million	Act of Feb, 20, 1951 Act of Oct 22, 1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prison or death to "counter-revolutionary criminals" • And anyone resisting any government program • Death penalty for supplying guns to such "criminals"
Guatemala	1960-1981	Mayans & other Indians; Political enemies	100,000 - 200,000	Decree 36, Nov 25 - Act of 1932 Decree 386, 1947 Decree 283, 1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register guns & owners • Licensing with high fees • Prohibit carrying guns • Bans on guns, sharp tools • Confiscation powers
Uganda	1971-1979	Christians Political enemies	300,000	Firearms Ordinance, 1955 Firearms Act, 1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register all guns & owners • Licenses for transactions • Warrant less searches • Confiscation powers
Cambodia (Khmer Rouge)	1975-1979	Educated Persons; Political enemies	2 Million	Art. 322-328, Penal Code Royal Ordinance 55, 1938	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licenses for guns, owners, ammunition & transactions • Photo ID with fingerprints • License inspected quarterly
Rwanda	1994	Tutsi People	800,000	Decree-Law No. 12, 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register guns, owners, ammunition • Owners must justify need • Concealable guns illegal • Confiscation powers

CIVILIAN FIREARMS AND FREEDOM

	Firearms Estimate (per 100,000 pop.) [1]	firearms rank	Freedom House rankings [3]
US	90	17	Free
Finland	55	17	Free
Switzerland	46	30	Free
Serbia	37.5	8	Free
France	32	5.5	Free
Canada	31.5	14	Free
Sweden	31.5	25	Free
Germany	30	11	Free
Australia	15.5	23	Free
Mexico	15	19.5	Free
South Africa	13.15	3	Free
Argentina	12.65	1	Free
Italy	12.1	14	Free
Spain	11	26.5	Free
Ukraine	9	14	Free
Brazil	8.8	17	Free
England&Wales (UK)	5.55	21	Free
India	4.3	23	Free
Yemen	61	12	Partly Free
Iraq	39	19.5	Not Free
Saudi Arabia	26.3	10	Not Free
Angola	20.5	2	Not Free
Thailand	16.1	8	Not Free
Turkey	13	23	Not Free
Pakistan	12	5.5	Not Free
Russian Fed	9	29	Not Free
Columbia	7.25	8	Partly Free
Iran	5.3	28	Not Free
Philippines	4.75	26.5	Partly Free
China	3.1	4	Not Free

Sources: [1] Table 2.3, Chapter 2, "Completing the Count, Civilian Firearms", by Aaron Karn, *Guns and the City*, SAS 2007

[2] Jane's Information Services,

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/article3617160.ece>

Higher rankings [smaller numbers] mean greater political security

[3] Freedom in the World 2007 Subscores, 2007 Edition

source: http://www.freedomhouse.org/template_cfm?page=372&year=2007

F = Free, PF = Part Free, NF = Not Free

(UNODA), as its name implies, is dedicated to civilian disarmament. Under the guise of protecting civilians the UN promotes laws, both national and international, that remove ordinary rifles and handguns from civilians in all regions of the world. General disarmament is justified by claiming, "the illicit circulation of small arms, light weapons and their ammunition destabilizes communities, and impacts security and development."

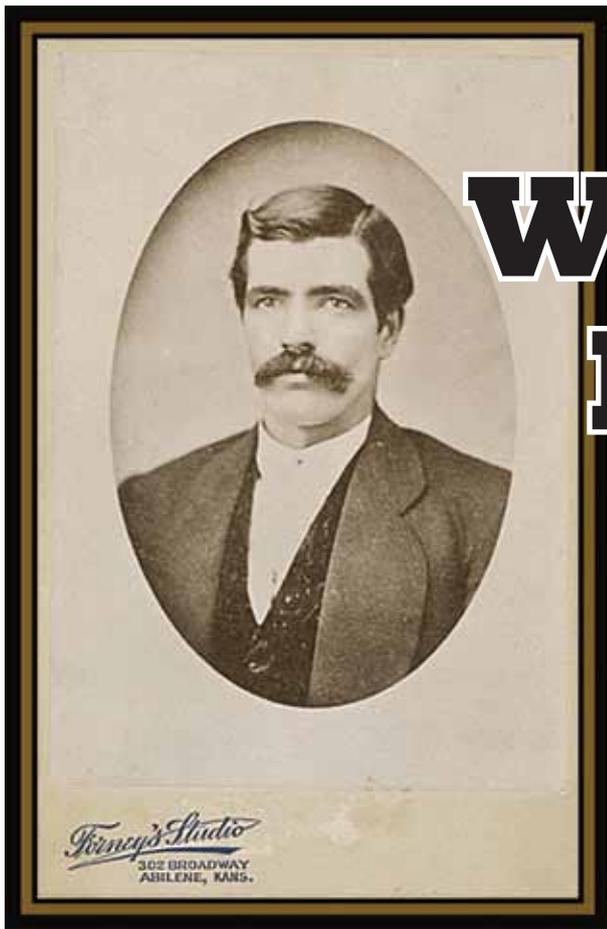
As I've discussed in an earlier issue of the CFJ, the UN is expected to make a final decision on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) this coming July. In the next few months, the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom4) will meet behind closed doors to finalize the wording. It is not yet known whether the World Forum will be allowed to participate in these meetings. The ATT is expected to win wide support at the UN and will regulate international arms sales. This poses an unprecedented threat to responsible citizens who own firearms. The ATT demands that all firearms and ammunition be specially marked. The costs involved will be enormous and will drastically increase the price of firearms and ammunition. The most dangerous implication is the creation of a new UN agency to regulate international firearm sales that will require countries to set up a compensation fund for victims of gun violence worldwide. This is a dangerous precedent as it essentially gives the UN the authority to impose taxes.

The ATT and the NFA

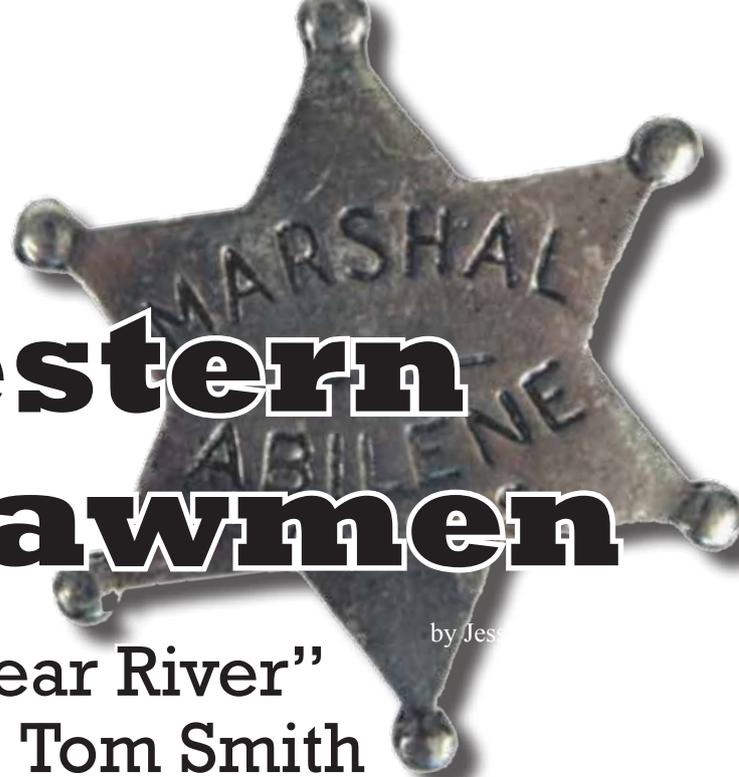
This summer, the NFA will be at the UN with the World Forum to monitor the ATT. The World Forum represents more than 46 million civilian firearms owners around the world. It is one of the few international NGOs to stand up for civilian firearms owners.

Canada is unlikely to ratify the ATT in the near future. Unlike previous Liberal governments, the Harper Conservatives are not knee-jerk supporters of UN fantasies, whether it is the ATT or the Kyoto Accord. But no one knows who will win the next election. If the Liberals or NDP come to power, they will support the ATT. When Jean Chrétien was PM, he acted as if UN

Genocide Continued on Page 47



Western Lawmen



“Bear River” Tom Smith

by Jes

1830 birth, somewhere in New York, until he left that state for the West as a workman helping to construct the Union Pacific railroad. Legend has it that he was a professional middleweight boxer and served at least briefly as a NYC policeman, although no evidence exists to support either supposition. It's compelling to imagine him a cop from the time he's teathed, transferring his Rocky-like pugilistic skills from the bloodied bare-knuckle rings of eastern gentlemen's clubs to the frontier of cowboys, Indians and gunslingers.

In 1871, when James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok took over the job of Marshal of that rough and tumble cowtown, Abilene, he was being hired to take over for the recently murdered lawman “Bear River” Tom Smith. Both were tall, handsome and unarguably courageous, with large expressive hands and drooping frontier mustaches... and yet, the two could not have been much less alike when it came to temperament and style.

Bill was a killer known to be moody with periods of sullen withdrawal, characteristically wary and suspicious, quick to pull his sidearms, and obsessive about making sure he had the advantage and got “the drop” on any potentially dangerous hombres. He appeared calm and unflustered in most situations, and drew and fired his favored Navy Colts with more sureness than speed. Ol’ “Bear River”, on the other hand, was said to be generally gregarious and trusting, giving little consideration to planning and strategy when rushing into a situation where he might be needed. Smith seldom ever drew his revolvers, and most strikingly – if you’ll forgive my pun – preferred to disable any uncooperative miscreants with his bare fists instead. His sending confrontational drunks to jail with a black eye and bruises instead of to an early grave, was said by some to be due to his caring heart, while others remarked it was more a matter of huevos that dragged on the ground.

Little is known of red-headed Smith from the time of his

Even more intriguing, one myth alleges that Smith may have accidentally shot and killed a 14 year-old boy in the line of duty. It was whispered that Smith, filled with remorse and looking for a fresh start, or perhaps less honourably, for the purpose of jumping bail and avoiding prosecution for the accidental slaying, is said to have fled the state for the anonymity of the frontier. Of course, no one really knows what truth, if any is to be found at the root of such unfounded folk tales and barroom gossip. What is interesting about the story though, is how it parallels Wild Bill’s own story, if true. Some years later, Bill was also fated to mistakenly put a slug through the chest of an innocent, in his case, his own deputy and friend. Like Smith, not long thereafter Bill also opted to move on, perhaps in hopes of putting the tragedy behind him. As for Smith, if true the tale could certainly help explain his uncharacteristic reluctance to resort to arms, and his fervent promotion and enforcement of widely unpopular gun control laws in the course of his subsequent law-enforcement career.

Smith’s western legend begins in the year 1868, when the first documented accounts of him appear in newspapers and historical documents. The incident that garnered Tom his famous moniker of “Bear River” Tom Smith, occurred at the ad hoc labor camp of Bear River, Wyoming, where rough and rowdy workers capped their days of hard labor

with drinking, whoring, brawling and impromptu indoor target shooting. According to legend, again, the “town’s” authorities had either arrested or hung a troublesome railroad worker, resulting in a retaliatory attack on the town by his track-laying buddies. Smith is claimed to have stood with guns drawn between the town citizens and angry workers, keeping the peace until military troops from Fort Bridger showed up to relieve him and lay down some good old fashioned martial law.

The more likely scenario, according to the few contemporary reports, is that Smith was part of a growing crowd of laborers demanding the release of some fellow workers who were being held by self-appointed “town” vindicators. These “authorities” were little more than vigilantes in reality; essentially enforcers of a version of peace, morality and ultimately mercantilism that apparently didn’t sit so well with the unruly and party-minded railroaders. The townsmen quickly switched from dishing out punishment, to hunkering down in a log cabin, firing out of the windows into the milling men amassed outside. One of these bullets struck a friend of Smith’s, causing him to jerk his pistol and charge the fort, and another is said to have brought him down and nearly killed him.

Whatever happened, he was certainly well enough two years later to apply for the position of Marshal of Abilene, a cowtown where herders not much different than his railroad chums were regularly tearing things up. His job this time, however, was not to defend the rabble’s freedoms but to tighten the cinch on them and tame their rowdy ways. At first, the town councilmen passed his application over in favor of importing a supposedly heavily decorated ex-Cavalryman, but Abilene’s mayor, Theodore C. Henry, was desperate for someone that could go head to head with hard-headed Texas drovers. The councilmen had second thoughts, after the aforementioned rough rider took the bullet scars in the “No Guns Allowed” sign at the edge of town as encouragement to ride on the



other way.

Mayor Henry swore Bear River in as Abilene’s Chief of Police on Saturday, June 4th of 1870, for a not un-princely sum of \$150 a month. (At the time, the average cowhand was drawing \$30 a month and found.) The Chief was also the only policeman, and responsibility for keep things calm would rest on a single man. The first order of business was to somehow curb the out-of-control gun violence that marred the town’s tranquility and finally put an end to the indiscriminate and often drunken celebratory gunfire of the Texas cowpunchers.

Taking the proverbial bull by the horns, Smith effectively declared war on the hell-raising elements that had effectively run rough-shod over his predecessors when he took it upon himself to enforce the heretofore unenforced town ordinance against toting firearms in town. It was his first week on the job. During this era, it wasn’t unheard of for some of the rougher boomtowns on the frontier to go through several lawmen in the run of a week, sometimes in a day. Western lawmen of the period were dealing with a potent mix of rough-and-tumble hellions, fighters, trouble-

makers, killers and thieves. No matter which side of the law they were on, none welcomed an end to their good time and all were prepared to do what was necessary to run off any lawdog looking to stop the party.

Bear River Tom Smith that first week found himself just about as popular as a case of the flux, while the majority of the bully-boys and hell-raisers swelling Abilene’s population waited to see whether the new lawman had enough sand to actually make the new rules stick. He certainly wasn’t lacking in challengers to his authority. As history has it, the first to rise to the test was a local hulk of man by the name of “Big Hank” Hawkins. His response to Tom’s mild-mannered requests to disarm was to drop a hand on his holstered pistol and start to yell profanities in the Marshal’s face, perhaps to goad him into a gunfight. However, a swift right-cross caught Hawkins flat-footed. The powerful blow from Smith nailed “Big Hang” on the temple, putting an end to his admonitions and dropping him to the ground. Moving with lightning speed, Smith lifted the big man’s pistol from its leather as he folded like a deck of cards and fell to the floor. When he came to, Smith ordered him out of



A selection of Colt 1851 Navys with ivory
Bottom: Bear River City, Wyoming

town, admonishing him to never come back, as Abilene was now closed to him. Hurting and still somewhat disoriented, it was a “suggestion” that Hawkins was happy to comply with and he readily left Abilene in the dust in his rush to leave town.

Only a few days later, Big Hank’s pard, “Wyoming Frank” decided to defend the interests of the sporting crowd by goading the Marshal into a gunfight. Frank was brave enough, locating Smith in one of the saloons, getting in his face and calling him out, and stepping rearwards to make room for his draw. But with each step that he took backwards, Smith took just as large a step forward until the two men were at the swinging doors, still nearly nose to nose. As the doors flew open, a left-right combination put out Frank’s lights, enabling Bear River to take his time relieving his adversary of his weapon. Seeing what had gone down, other now slightly sobered patrons suddenly began to pull sidearms out of pockets and purses, from boot tops and out from under coats where they’d been artfully concealed, hurrying to offer them up to the tenacious new marshal. “Just check ‘em with the bartender, boys, so’s you can pick ‘em up on your way out of town,” he is reported to have said, before following after Frank as he was carried unconscious to the waiting calaboose. Upon waking, Wyoming Frank was the beneficiary of Marshal Smith’s wise “counsel,” just as his former pard, “Big Hank,” had been. Proving himself just as smart as his pal, Frank wasn’t long putting Abilene in his dust, giving no thought as to when he might visit once more.

Having proven that he could handle himself, Smith and Abilene’s sporting crowd came to an unspoken truce of sorts. Then in June of 1870, Smith was called to investigate the theft of a large number of Abilene horses by a bunch of no-goods led by one “Buckskin Bill”. On the frontier, horse thieves were viewed with the same disgust as were murders



and thieves, since to steal a man’s horse on the trail was essentially writing his death sentence. Horse thieves were often hanged right on the spot, with few raising any moral objections to this type of swift, frontier justice.

It is for this reason, Bear River stuck to the gang’s trail like a bloodhound, tracking Bill and the horses hundreds of miles north, crossing the state line, and eventually to a place called Pawnee City. There, Smith discovered that Bill had managed to sell the majority of the filched horse flesh. It was a hot and dusty July afternoon, when Smith rode his grey dappled gelding, Silverheels, slowly through the town, watching in all directions for the thieves, and taking note of the location of any Kansas brands. Locating a number of the missing horses, Smith immediately took possession of the animals as evidence and with the intent of returning them to their rightful





Abilene circa 1870s

owners. The irate objections offered by a few of the cheated horse buyers, who had paid Buckskin Bill good money for their new mounts, ultimately fell on deaf ears. It was said that Smith presented such an intense visage and picture of intense focus, that a single, steely-eyed glance from him was enough to quiet further complaints from swindled Pawnee City horse buyers.

Hearing of Smith's unwavering pursuit of him, and perhaps fearing the inevitable outcome if the Bear River Tom Smith ever caught up with him, Buckskin Bill conveniently got himself thrown into jail in his hometown of Brownville. Many believe that Bill had himself locked up, on what most likely was a bogus charge, at the behest of his father who enjoyed a measure of local political influence. Stymied by the locals, Smith grudgingly opted to head back to Abilene with more than a dozen of the recovered horses he had recovered.

Herding the horses before him as he made his triumphant return to Abilene, he was met by crowds of appreciative townsfolk, who watched and waved to their marshal from the raised wooden boardwalks, as he made his way through town. It's not recorded if Bear River ever acknowledged the waves or shouted greetings, although some would argue that perhaps Smith's only hint of satisfaction in his warm greeting was betrayed by the up-curved edges of his lips beneath their mustache curtain. A grateful city later rewarded Bear River with a matching pair of Colt's percussion revolvers featuring polished elephant ivory handles; trophies that he proudly wore from then on yet supposedly hardly ever unsheathed.

The dauntless Tom Smith had been on the job for less than five momentous months, when in November of '70 he took a part-time deputy named Jim McDonald with him to make an arrest. Their destination was approximately 12 miles outside of town and the farm of one Andrew McConnell. The latter was wanted on a murder charge and it was Smith's job to bring him in to face trial. In hindsight, admirers of Smith wondered over his choice of back-up. Deputy McDonald was known to be "uncomfortable" with firearms, and when it came to huevos, he was considered to walk a little light...

yet for whatever unknown reasons, it was nonetheless he who was enlisted to join in what would prove a fateful adventure.

As the two lawmen approached McConnell's farmhouse they noticed a friend of McConnell's, Moses Miles, seemingly standing guard in front of McConnell's door, with a rifle cradled at his side. Smith instructed Deputy McDonald to cover Miles, as the Marshal strode straight into the house and McConnell's waiting guns. Shots were fired, some of which may or may not have wounded the Marshal, and then the two of them closed distance and began to grapple. Upon hearing the shots, Miles raised his Winchester towards the deputy and snapped the hammer, but the rifle either misfired or its chamber was empty, making him temporarily vulnerable to an attack.

Instead of seizing the opportunity, however, Deputy Jim panicked and leapt on his horse for a speedy getaway, even as the Marshal and McConnell rolled out the door in a macabre death hug from which only one would ever rise. With a herculean effort, Tom had managed to flip his quarry over and slap some handcuffs on him, just as a remorseless Moses hit him over the head with the butt of his unfired rifle. Grabbing a nearby axe, he then struck a second blow that nearly took the head off of the courageous, but incautious Smith.

The grateful and bereaved citizens of Abilene laid Bear River Tom Smith on a hill with a wooden marker, but in 1904 the remains of Bear River were exhumed and transferred to Abilene Cemetery beneath a sizable granite boulder with a bronze plaque reading:

Thomas J Smith, Marshal of Abilene, 1870. Died a Martyr To Duty Nov. 2, 1870. A Fearless Hero Of Frontier Days Who In The Cowboy Chaos Established The Supremacy Of Law.

Decades later, the U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower said of his hero: "According to the legends of my hometown he was anything but dull. While he almost never carried a pistol he... subdued the lawless by the force of his personality and his tremendous capability as an athlete. One blow of his fist was apparently enough to knock out the ordinary 'tough' cowboy. He was murdered by treachery."

Tom Smith might have done better by both picking a different deputy than Jim McDonald, and walking in with a rifle or shotgun already cocked and leveled. The growing ambivalence of this brave badge-wearer, toward the employment of firearms in the line-of-duty, sadly may in fact have cost him his life.

We know that Pat Garrett liked to make arrests from ambush, Wild Bill and Wyatt Earp both preferred to "buffalo" any lawbreakers or contenders, smacking them atop the head with the barrel of a revolver. But it was Bear River Smith who showed just how much could be accomplished, with no more than insistent will and gritty determination... and a man's two naked fists.

Soapbox - *continued From page 31*

and the various police academies and colleges across the country in the years to come.

*Malum prohibitum (plural mala prohibita, literal translation: "wrong [as or because] prohibited") is a Latin phrase used in law to refer to conduct that constitutes an unlawful act only by virtue of statute, as opposed to conduct evil in and of itself, or malum in se. Conduct that was so clearly violative of society's standards for allowable conduct that it was illegal under English common law is usually regarded as "malum in se". An offense that is malum prohibitum, for example, may not appear on the face to directly violate moral standards.

For our purposes here, criminal offenses can be broken down into two general categories - malum in se and malum prohibitum. The distinction between malum in se and malum prohibitum offenses is best characterized as follows: a malum in se offense is "naturally evil as adjudged by the sense of a civilized community," whereas a malum prohibitum offense is wrong only because a statute makes it so.

See:

http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/malum_prohibitum
<http://www.nolo.com/dictionary/malum-in-se-term.html>
<http://www.nolo.com/dictionary/malum-prohibitum-term.html>

Genocide Cont. From Page 42

decisions were legally binding.

Remember, there is scant support for armed civilians in Ottawa. The bureaucracy remains stuffed with Liberal holdovers, and the Canadian media are dominated by so called "progressives." If gun owners wish to preserve their freedom, they need to do more, much more, to promote conservative and libertarian ideas. International pressure for civilian disarmament is not likely to evaporate. Anti-gun NGOs are well funded and will continue pushing for greater gun restrictions and confiscations whenever they judge it possible. Freedom demands responsibility. Gun owners must educate themselves and get involved. The NFA is the only group in Canada that can be counted upon to stand up for civilian gun rights.

For further information:

Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership.

<http://jpfo.org/>

Mauser, Gary. www.sfu.ca/~mauser/

Rummel, R.J. Power Kills.

<http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/welcome.html>

UNDOA, <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/SALW/>

World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting.

<http://www.wfsa.net/>

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