

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2018

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CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

July/August 2018



COLUMNS

4 **ON THE COVER**

5 **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

The Focus Is C-71
AL VOTH

6 **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The Peaceful Possession Of
Firearms Should Not Be A Crime
SHELDON CLARE

8 **VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Be Politically Active
BLAIR HAGEN

10 **PRESERVING OUR FIREARMS HERITAGE**

The Movie That Became
A Competition
GARY K. KANGAS

12 **POLITICS & GUNS**

Canadian Culture
– English Roots
BRUCE GOLD

48 **TEAM NFA**

Making The Most Of Visualization
PATRICK HAYNES

50 **LEGAL CORNER**

Bill C-71: A Fine Example
Of Liberal Logic
GUY LAVERGNE

54 **NFA BOOK SHELF**

Long Range Shooting Handbook:
A Beginner's Guide To Precision
Rifle Shooting
BILL RANTZ

FEATURES

14 **AUSTRALIAN ACCURACY**

Lithgow's LA101
Crossover rimfire rifle
LOWELL STRAUSS

18 **THE KEL-TEC CMR-30**

A multipurpose utility carbine
JOSH JUDSON

22 **MADE IN TURKEY**

Who's who in the world's shotgun
manufacturing hub
JEFF HELSDON

26 **TRAP SHOOTING**

A Canadian tradition
ERIC R. PREVOST

29 **SKINNER SIGHTS**

Rugged & accurate aperture sights
JEFF SMITH

30 **SNAPS SAFE**

The DIY gun safe
KEN BAILEY

32 **TEETH & CLAWS**

A professional's recommendations
for wilderness self defence
DUANE RADFORD

38 **TWO GUNS IN A TWO-CAR GARAGE**

Building a firearms
business in Nova Scotia
DON MACLEAN

42 **MEDIUM BORE AIR POWER**

Reviewing the .25 calibre
Benjamin Marauder
AL VOTH

45 **BEARS**

MIKE CAMP

46 **NFA'S 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

C-71: The theme of the AGM
JEFF HELSDON



MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

Precision rifle shooting is the current rage in rifle sports, and that's what we've captured for this month's cover. That's Spencer Roche at an Alberta match hosted by the Wild Rose Action Shooters. Spencer is trying to hit steel targets between 200 and 500 metres in a fixed amount of time, so he's working the bolt fast and hard. His rifle is a Surgeon 591 with a Krieger barrel and McMillan stock. The scope is a Vortex AMG Razor in a Spuhr mount. A bipod by BT Industries supports this 6.5 Creedmoor. It's unusual to get a photo of Spencer, because he's typically on the other side of a camera, shooting portraits. You can see some of his work at 500px.com/northwest-portrait. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voith

The Focus Is C-71

Naturally, the big news for this issue of the *CFJ* is the Liberal government's introduction of Bill C-71 and its progress through the legislative framework. In particular, you'll want to check out Guy Lavergne's *Legal Corner* column and take a look at some of the issues he predicts will arise from this proposed legislation. The recent NFA Annual General Meeting also focused on Bill C-71. In Jeff Helsdon's report on the AGM, you'll find a summary of what two legal experts and one medical expert told the meeting. As you'll see, the potential for politicians and police to abuse the rights of gun owners is huge, but there's nothing significant in the way of crime reduction resulting.

In regard to other content, many of our regular writers are back including Lowell Strauss with a review of an Australian rimfire rifle, the Lithgow LA101. It's a slick-looking rifle and I'm looking forward to trying it out on

Saskatchewan gophers this summer. I should also mention that Lowell's article, *Sound Advice*, published in the September/October 2017 issue of the *CFJ*, won third place, Magazine Contest, Gear/Technical Category in the Outdoor Writers of America (OWAA) Excellence in Craft Awards. My goal has long been to have the *CFJ* winning international awards for its articles, and Lowell is making that happen. Congratulations to him!

There are more equipment reviews in this issue, as well, including one of the SnapSafe, a fully featured gun safe that's labeled as do-it-yourself secure storage for firearms. Its biggest feature is that it can be moved and installed anywhere by one person. No cranes or forklifts required!

Kel-Tec's CMR-30 is now available in a Canadian legal version, so it also gets a review. Josh Judson handles those chores. And Jeff Smith looks at Skin-

ner Sights and their utility on a 10/22 rifle. I've always appreciated aperture sights, and these look to be good ones. You'll also find a rundown of Turkish gun manufacturers, and what they are bringing to Canada. There's no doubt we're in the midst of a Turkish invasion of firearm designs and models, so Jeff Helsdon makes some sense of it all by telling us who's who.

If wilderness travel is on your agenda this summer, you need to read Duane Radford's interview with a Yukon guide and outfitter who has too much experience defending himself against dangerous bears. If you step off the beaten path, it would be a good idea to heed his advice. And on the topic of bears, I had a reader submit a poem about them, so I figured why not include it as a fun addition to the topic.

There's plenty more between these pages as well. So, enjoy the read. It's your magazine. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

The Peaceful Possession Of Firearms Should Not Be A Crime

In May, I was able to meet with several influential Liberal and CPC MPs, and staffers from both the House of Commons and the Senate, to brief them on our specific concerns on Bills C-71 and C-75. I also met with the New Brunswick Firearms Advisory Council to share our concerns with them. We provided a briefing paper to the Public Safety Committee regarding our concerns on firearms legislation and the need to push back. Our lobbyist, Fred Delorey, has now also taken on the role of Director of Political Operations in order to assist with our ground game in the political realm.

As it needs to be made clear to our political leaders, the peaceful possession of firearms should not be a *Criminal Code* offence, allowed by holding a government licence. It is certainly the case that most firearms owners in Canada remain unlicensed, with only some two million of the well over four or five million people who own between 14 and 21 million firearms in Canada having obtained licenses.

Since 1968, 50 years of ideologically based gun control has had nothing whatsoever to do with public safety. Instead, gun control measures in successive legislation have primarily been political in origin and intended to appeal to perceptions rather than reality in order to curry favour with the voting public. These gun control efforts merely continued the trend of earlier legislative efforts in attempting to disarm elements of the public thought unworthy, dangerous, or of suspect loyalty.

As Dr. Caillin Langmann has demonstrated, there is no evidence that increasing restrictions on firearms ownership, possession and acquisition requiring increased screening (former Bill C-51, the Firearms Acquisition Certificate, 1978, and the firearms Possession and Acquisition Licence, of former Bill C-68, 1998) have had any effect, positive or negative, on either the homicide rate

or crime rate in Canada.

Since the historic and public failure of the *Firearms Act* (former Bills 1992 C-17 and 1995 C-68) and election of the Conservative government in 2006, Canada has been the only nation in the Commonwealth to pursue any firearms law reforms by trying to address the egregious domestic gun control agendas perpetuated in the name of civil disarmament in the 1990s. Unfortunately, current efforts appear poised to undo even those extremely modest reforms through the implementation of Bill C-71.

The ending of the long gun registry of former Bill C-19 in 2012 broke over 40 years of political and legal stalemate that prevented any firearms law reforms from being enacted in the aftermath of each round of civil disarmament legislation that has been imposed in Canada since the late 1960s. Canada's National Firearms Association has recently intervened at the Supreme Court of Canada to support the federal government in also ending the registry in Quebec.

The ending of long gun registration under Bill C-19 and the stated intent of Bill C-42 demonstrated that firearms law reform was recognized by the previous government of Canada as legitimate and needed in the face of the past 40 years of bad firearms legislation, which has targeted regular law-abiding Canadians and stripped them of their rights and property.

While Canada's NFA celebrates this change, along with all other Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms, these reforms, although well intentioned, failed to address the most obvious problem: the failure of Canada's firearms control system. The failed firearms legislation of 1992 (C-17) and 1995 (C-68) must be repealed.

The previous federal government's Bill C-42, ostensibly aimed at reforming Canada's morass of failed and ill-con-

ceived firearms law, was the product of many months of consultation, review and debate that began December 2013. As a result of certain high-profile incidents, introduction of the new bill was unavoidably delayed. Unfortunately, the bill delivered missed the mark by a wide margin and does not reflect the data which demonstrates conclusively that none of Canada's firearms control legislation has affected crime rates. The recent well-known work by Dr. Langmann on the matter, in *The Journal of Interpersonal Violence* (2012), is particularly persuasive on the matter.

There were some aspects of former Bill C-42 which provided some small relief from irritating bureaucratic processes; however, this bill does little to address the many significant problems with Canadian firearms law of which the government is well aware. The former Bill C-42, though marketed as offering "common sense" reforms for firearms owners, nevertheless contained significant problems which prevented the NFA endorsing it as introduced.

The NFA supports the repeal of former Bills C-17 and C-68 in their entirety, as the research demonstrates the long-term trend of a drop in crime rate has more to do with an aging population than anything to do with firearms legislation. It is a fact that firearms laws neither prevent bad behaviour and poor decision-making, nor do they limit the extent of any ill-doer's ability to cause harm.

We will be rolling out new campaigns to organize members and to aid in targeting vulnerable ridings in which the margin was slim, in order to defeat the Liberal government. As well, we will be taking steps to mobilize the firearms community in Quebec – watch for our upcoming efforts in that regard. And as always, donate, volunteer, or both, in order to help with the fight to ensure that the Liberal government sees that gun control is a losing issue for them.

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

La possession paisible d'armes à feu ne devrait pas être un crime.

Durant le mois de mai j'ai eu l'occasion de rencontrer des députés influents autant parmi les Libéraux que les Conservateurs, ainsi que des employés de la Chambre des Communes et du Sénat. Je leur ai fait part de nos inquiétudes spécifiques à propos des Projets de Loi C-71 et C-75. J'ai aussi rencontré les membres du Conseil Consultatif du Nouveau-Brunswick sur les armes à feu pour leur partager les mêmes inquiétudes. Nous avons remis un document d'information au Comité sur la Sécurité Publique à propos de ce qui nous inquiète et la nécessité de faire marche arrière en regard des lois sur les armes à feu. Notre lobbyiste Fred Delorey est devenu Directeur des Opérations Politiques pour nous assister sur le terrain.

Nos dirigeants politiques doivent être informés, sans équivoque, que la possession paisible d'armes à feu ne devrait pas être une infraction criminelle, permise seulement grâce à une licence gouvernementale. Présentement la plupart des propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens sont sans permis puisque sur plus de quatre ou cinq millions de personnes, seulement deux millions ont obtenus des permis. Tous ensemble ils possèdent 14 à 21 millions d'armes à feu.

Depuis 1968, le contrôle des armes se fait sur une base idéologique et n'a aucun rapport avec la sécurité publique. Les mesures de contrôle des armes à feu sont d'origine politique et conçues pour plaire aux perceptions et non à la réalité dans le but d'obtenir le vote publique. Ces mesures ne sont que la suite d'une tendance qui vise le désarmement de certains citoyens perçus comme étant indignes, dangereux ou dont on doute de la loyauté.

Les études du Dr Caillin Langmann démontrent que l'augmentation des restrictions sur la possession et l'acquisition d'armes à feu ainsi que les vérifications judiciaires (L'ancien Projet de Loi C-51, l'Autorisation d'Acquisition d'Armes à Feu- AAAF de 1978. Le Permis de Possession Acquisition d'Armes à Feu provenant du Projet de Loi C-68 de 1998) n'ont aucun effet, que ce soit positif ou négatif sur le taux d'homicides ou

le taux de criminalité au Canada.

Depuis l'échec historique de la Loi sur les Armes à Feu (Anciens Projet de Loi C-17 de 1992 et C68 de 1995.) qui fût bien étalé sur la place publique et l'élection du Gouvernement Conservateur en 2006, le Canada est le seul pays du Commonwealth à instaurer des réformes de ses lois sur les armes à feu pour corriger les régimes de contrôle des armes perpétués au nom du désarmement civil pendant les années 1990. Malheureusement les efforts actuels visent à démanteler les modestes réformes accomplies en voulant faire adopter le Projet de Loi C-71.

L'élimination du registre des armes d'épaules apporté par le Projet de Loi C-19 fût la première réforme depuis 40 ans d'impasses politiques et juridiques qui empêchaient toutes modifications aux lois sur les armes à feu. Depuis la fin des années 1960 toutes les lois avaient été adoptées ayant comme seul but le désarmement civil. Tout récemment l'Association Canadienne pour les Armes à Feu est intervenue devant la Cour Suprême du Canada pour appuyer le Gouvernement Fédéral dans le but d'éliminer le registre Québécois.

La fin de l'enregistrement des armes d'épaules sous le Projet de Loi C-19 et l'intention du législateur dans le Projet de Loi C-42 démontrent que la réforme des lois sur les armes à feu est un enjeu reconnu par le précédent Gouvernement du Canada. Cette réforme fût reconnue comme légitime et nécessaire vu les mauvaises lois qui se sont échelonnées sur une période de 40 ans et se sont acharnées uniquement sur les Canadiens respectueux des lois en les dépouillant de leurs droits et propriété.

L'ACAF et d'autres Canadiens qui croient aux droits et libertés ont salué ces changements. Quoique bien intentionnés ils n'ont jamais opté pour la solution qui sautait aux yeux, abroger tout simplement les lois qui furent un échec, C-17 en 1992 et C-68 en 1995.

Le Projet de Loi C-42, adopté par le Gouvernement Fédéral précédent avait été conçu pour reformer le marasme des lois sur les armes à feu Canadiennes. Il fût le fruit de plusieurs mois de consul-

tations, révisions et débats qui avaient commencé en décembre 2013. À cause d'incidents hautement médiatisés, son adoption fût retardée. Malheureusement, le Projet de Loi qui fût adopté a de beaucoup manqué la cible et ne reflétait pas le résultat de recherches qui démontrent sans équivoque que toutes les lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu n'ont aucun effet sur les taux de criminalité. Le travail de recherche du Dr Caillin Langmann dans le Journal of Interpersonal Violence (2012) est particulièrement persuasif en ce sens.

Certains aspects du Projet de Loi C-42 ont légèrement soulagé quelques irritants administratifs, par contre il ne s'est jamais penché sur les problèmes majeurs engendrés par les lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu, lesquels sont bien connus du Gouvernement. C-42 qui fût présenté comme une loi qui apportait des changements de "bon sens" pour les propriétaires d'armes à feu, contenait quand même de problèmes majeurs et l'ACAF ne pouvait pas l'appuyer tel que présenté.

L'ACAF désire que soit abrogé les anciens Projets de Loi C-17 et C-68 en entier puisque les recherches démontrent que la baisse de criminalité existante est plutôt due au vieillissement de la population et non aux lois sur le contrôle des armes. C'est un fait connu que toutes lois sur le contrôle des armes ne peuvent prévenir les mauvais comportements ni les mauvaises décisions, elles ne peuvent pas limiter la capacité de faire le mal par tout malfaiteur.

Nous allons bientôt commencer nos campagnes pour mobiliser nos membres pour aider à cibler certaines circonscriptions vulnérables où les Libéraux ont gagné par une mince majorité. Il faut faire échec au Gouvernement Libéral. Nous allons aussi prendre les mesures nécessaires pour mobiliser la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu du Québec - surveillez nos activités en ce sens. Comme toujours faites des dons, soyez bénévoles ou les deux, pour aider à faire comprendre au Gouvernement Libéral que le contrôle des armes à feu est un enjeu qui mènera à leur défaite. 



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Be Politically Active

If you are passionate about your Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership, it is once again time to start thinking about voting strategically.

Something I find myself saying whenever the topic of guns comes up is, "If you want to be a gun owner in Canada today, you are going to have to face a basic truth: You must be politically active, or at least politically aware."

If you are a member of the NFA and are reading this, you are probably already both. But there are others who may not understand the importance of that statement, and the ramifications of not being politically aware on this issue can be a serious problem.

We've all heard it. "I am not a single-issue voter." A fine statement, and on the surface a perfectly reasonable political position to take. I don't know about you, but it has been a very long time since I have had the luxury of being a well-rounded, multi-issue voter. The Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership is still in danger.

The imposition of the 1995 Liberal Firearms Act made single-issue voting on firearms a necessity. What took place after that was a hard-fought and won battle to take back our rights, and correct the wrongs committed in the name of some convoluted and perverted bastardization of "public safety." As a result, Canadians were successful in effecting firearms law reforms and politically changing the very nature of the firearms issue in Canada.

Your vote is sacred. It's the ultimate expression of democracy in voting for something, against something, or even withholding it altogether as an expression of disgust or disdain for the political choices being offered. Bill C-71 once again forces us to address the firearms issue politically. Because not only has firearms law reform been stalled under this Liberal government, the reforms that were effected under the previous government are even under attack. They are being undermined by the professional bureaucrats, political police and civil disarmament lobbyists who hold sway with this Liberal government.

A critical thing to remember is that our goal is to preserve the status quo, or simply to make a patently offensive and



dangerous piece of legislation fairer or more palatable. All of our goals must be to advance firearms law reform in Canada with expedience and certainty – fundamental firearms law reform. This is what earned Canadians the reforms that were realized under the previous federal government, the ending of long gun registration and others. And so it must be today.

The Liberals are hoping Canadians buy into their narrative on Bill C-71: "It's not a gun registry, and these are reasonable and fair restrictions on heavily regulated privilege." But another federal bill (C-75) actually reduces sentences for real criminal firearms offenses. The juxtaposition of these two bills is frankly bizarre. The Liberals want to increase attacks and restrictions on firearms licence holders and their property, while lessening the sentences on violent offenders who use firearms in the commission of real crimes.

What can you say?

I'm sure they will find some professor somewhere who will attest to the fact that this may be too complicated for the average Canadian to grasp, that the bill is absolutely necessary for social justice. But those of us who live in the real world, who have to face the realities of today's Canada, can only shake our heads in disbelief.

We are at a defining moment. It will lead us to a point where firearms law reform can continue, and the legislative wrongs of the past are righted. Or we slide back

down that all too familiar one-way street of ever increasing regulation towards extinguishing our ancient rights and freedoms.

If you are passionate about your Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership, it is once again time to start thinking about voting strategically, not only to preserve and secure it, but also advance it.

If re-elected, this government's attacks on the rights and property of Canadians are not going to quit. They will be emboldened to aggressively reinvest in the civil disarmament program adopted so long ago now. Canada will follow Australia and the UK down that path of disarmament, subjugation of rights and property, and the death of vital and valid cultural institutions that define us as a nation.

I'll be talking to you more about this in the coming months in the lead up to the 2019 election. The NFA will be asking you to recommit to the very necessary action of political activism. We're going to have to vote strategically, educate our family and friends, encourage those acquaintances who might be weary or wavering on the issue, and reactivate that massive political force that defeated the long gun registry and won other firearms law reforms under the Harper Conservative government.

If you believe in your rights and culture, if you believe in Canada, you must vote your passion. 

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

The Movie That Became A Competition



The competitions of the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) are the original brain child of three dedicated competition shooters, Harper Creigh, Gordon Davis and Bill Hahn. They were practical pistol shooters who enjoyed watching western movies, particularly the B-rated westerns of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. With their cumulative creativity, SASS was born.

These events are now represented in over 20 countries worldwide. Europeans, particularly in Germany, adore cowboys and the myth of the North American west. Of course, the North American cowboy is not border specific, ranging from the vaqueros of Mexico, to the various varieties of cowboys in the US. And

we also have to include the cowboys and buckaroos of Canada, as that vibrant cowboy culture predates Confederation.

The events of SASS are cowboy and frontier oriented and have been since its beginnings in 1982 and the creation of SASS in 1987. These proceedings have expanded incredibly since then, with new categories becoming more specific and age related. Competitors may choose what they want to be and how they will compete. If you like B-rated westerns or black-powder cartridges, a classic cowboy genre or possibly percussion revolvers, there is a class for everyone, allowing individuals to compete on a level playing field.

However, the movie that became a

stand-alone competition within SASS is *The Wild Bunch*. This 1959 film is set during the Mexican Revolution of 1916 and has become a western classic. The idea for a shooting match based on this movie began to take root in the early 2000s, but my research indicates no one is quite certain who came up with the concept. We do know that some SASS competitors organized side matches using the Colt 1911, the 1897 Winchester pump shotgun and a pistol-calibre, lever-action rifle of .40 calibre or larger. The Wild Bunch matches became official in 2009 with the adoption of a formal rule book and protocols for equipment and safety procedures. Since then, the events have become international in



scope.

Wild Bunch competitions are very popular in Canada. But you might not know that Canadians were directly involved in the Mexican Revolution. Many Canadian adventurers went to Mexico to join Pancho Villa's American Legion. Other Canadian soldiers of fortune chose to join the Federales. High-profile Canadian military men, such as Captain Alfred Lewis, who became the artillery commander of the Insurrectos, joined very early. Caryl Rhys Pryce, an ex-soldier and RCMP member, became a group commander in the Mexican Revolution. These, and other recruits, came from all walks of life. They were rich and poor, skilled soldiers or just people with a thirst for adventure. Two others who went to Mexico in search of gold and glory were Leon Bedat, of Huntsville, Ont., and Jan van den Berg. Most received neither gold, nor glory. These rash, daredevil individuals came from around the world. A great number of professional soldiers also went officially to Mexico as advisors, with the Germans and the French particularly well represented.

Wild Bunch competitions are, of course, very safety oriented. Addi-

tionally, the specific types of firearms allowed to be used are tightly regulated. Handguns are the 1911 Colt pistol or clones thereof. Standard 1911s are used in the traditional category and modified versions compete in what is called the modern category. Shotguns are limited to the 1897 Winchester pump and Winchester Model 12. Rifles can be any pistol-calibre, lever-action rifle of the era and must be .40 calibre or larger. Allowed chamberings include the 38-40 (which is actually a .40 calibre), 44 Special, 44-40 and 45 Colt. The 1911 pistol is loaded with seven rounds and a number of spare magazines, each loaded with seven rounds, are required. The match director can set limits on how many rounds are fired, and some stages may require up to 35 pistol shots. Rifles are usually loaded with 10 rounds and shotguns are loaded to capacity.

Unlike single-action events, Wild Bunch matches are scored hit or miss, meaning you cannot go back to make up a shot. The dress code recommended is the look from that era, be it cowboy, Mexican Federales, Insurrectos, or US Cavalry. The stage scenarios are based on movies, TV, historical events or pure fiction. The competition moves quickly,

as the targets are steel and scoring is based on hits and time. The participant who completes each stage in the fastest time, with the least misses, is the winner. The shots are recorded by an electronic timer which stops on the last shot, while three counters keep track of the hits on steel. At the end of the stage, the scores are recorded.

Wild Bunch matches are fast and the action is challenging, so a competitor's equipment must be in top-notch working order. If you enjoy action shooting, this could be your game.

For more information, go to the SASS website, which has all you need to know regarding equipment requirements. Also check the SASS events schedule, which lists all the affiliated cowboy action shooting clubs in the US, Canada and around the world. These events prove that a wide variety of shooting sports are needed to appeal to as many people as possible. Lots of competition options means more people attracted to gun ownership and the need to preserve our firearms heritage. 

Sources:

The Single Action Shooting Society
The author's Wild Bunch archive



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Canadian Culture – English Roots

This is part two of a three-part series on Canadian culture and guns. Part one examined the Indigenous roots. – Editor



Pictured is a war re-enactment, with men standing at attention during the Battle of Crysler's Farm. This re-enactment took place near Morrisburg, Ont., in 2013. Historically, Canadians were an armed people and our gun culture continues today.

To understand our culture, we must understand our history. We do this by examining how people and events have shaped Canada, making it what it is today. Despite Trudeau's arrogant proclamation that we have "no core identity," we are a nation with a distinct history, distinct accomplishments and a distinct identity. Our British heritage reflects that nation's long struggle with the complex problem of power and authority. Much of this struggle centres on who should have the ultimate power of lawful force and how those with that power can be held accountable.

Our British heritage traces its basic laws to ancient "customs of the people."

If we trace the lawful use of force, the ultimate political power, we find that in Anglo-Saxon times lawful force was very much in the hands of an armed people. In these times, possession of arms and skill in their use was both a right and a duty.

Under the laws of Alfred the Great (849 to 899), every male 16 to 60 was required to bear arms as part of the Fyrd. The Fyrd, or tribal levy, necessitated that the people owned and were competent with arms (we see a modern reflection of this in the American Second Amendment, with its reference to the necessity of an armed people to support a militia). Those who failed

to perform their military service were subject to heavy fines and loss of their land. The people were also responsible for enforcing law and order. The law required people to raise "hue and cry" in response to a serious crime and to make an armed pursuit of the criminal. Village security at night was provided by a village guard who kept "watch and ward."

Henry II enacted the Assize of Arms (1181), which required all citizens between 15 and 40 to keep arms varying from full armor and warhorse to simple leather armor and a lance for the poorest. Henry III's Assize of Arms (1253) expanded the age limits and required

even villeins (serfs) to possess arms. This law required commoners to possess the longbow, the deadliest military weapon of the age. Under Elizabeth I (1533 to 1603), the term militia was first used and there was a system of formal musters where people were required to display and practice with their weapons.

THE CIVIL WAR & DEFEAT OF TYRANNY

The Stuart Kings, Charles I and his son Charles II, declared their adherence to the Divine Right Doctrine of monarchy and began centralizing power in their own hands. The Divine Right Theory asserted that the king, who God had chosen, ruled through the will of God and was subject to no earthly authority. This theory rejected Magna Carta (1215), which prohibited arbitrary rule by making the King legally subordinate to the rule of law. The resulting disputes between king and parliament came to a head when parliament demanded control over the militia. Charles I refused, thus sparking a civil war which ended with the execution of Charles I and the rise of Cromwell's dictatorship.

Following the Civil War (1642 to 1651) and the death of Cromwell, the English accepted Charles II as their new king. Charles II, still holding to the Divine Right Theory, immediately began to centralize power, expanding the definition of treason, censoring the press and appointing Lord Lieutenants to form armed bands to watch political opponents, prevent their assembly and seize their arms. Gunsmiths were now required to keep records and firearm imports were banned. Carriers could not transport firearms without a licence. James II, Charles II's successor, continued his disarmament policies, decreeing that persons unqualified by law should have their firearms confiscated. Following James II's overthrow by parliament, his successor, William of Orange, obtained the throne when he agreed to abide by parliament's Bill of Rights. This document, described as the cornerstone of the constitution, affirmed a series of civil rights called the rights of Englishmen. This included the right to arms. Englishmen now had the formal, legal right to own arms "for their defense suitable to their condition and as allowed by law."

ENGLISH COLONIES IN AMERICAN

The early English colonies in American found themselves in a vast wilderness

surrounded by often hostile tribes. The need for a common defence and the absolute requirement of hunting to prevent starvation necessitated a return to the tradition and practice of an armed people. If we examine early colonial laws, we find laws very similar to those preceding the Stuart's struggle for power.

For example, Virginia, a commercial colony founded by the London company in 1607, required every free Virginian to "provide and furnish themselves with a sword, musquet and other furniture fit for a soldier" with two pounds of powder and eight pounds of shot. Connecticut law required "that all persons who are above the age of sixteene yeares, except magistrates and Church officers, shall beare arms...; and every male person within this jurisdiction, above the said age, shall have in continuall readines, a good muskitt or other gunn, fitt for service, and allowed by the clerk of the band." Maryland required "that every house keeper or housekeepers within this Province shall have ready continually upon all occasions within his, her or their house for him or themselves and for every person within his, her or their house able to bear armes, one serviceable fixed gunne of bastard muskett boare..." along with a pound of gunpowder, four pounds of pistol or musket shot, with "match for matchlocks and flints for firelocks."

CONCLUSION

The English experience with the right to arms and the associated right to self defence is deeply tied to civil liberties. The English, for most of their history, were an armed people, a fact which restrained arbitrary state power. A unique system evolved in Britain where an armed people were central to how lawful force was exercised. These early military and para-military organizations eventually became the militia, an armed body of citizen soldiers (a tradition of armed military service still alive in Canada).

These ancient "customs of the people" were overthrown when the Stuart Kings attempted to establish an absolute monarchy. Significantly, the final breach between an elected parliament and Divine Right Kings came not over taxes, but over control of the military. Open warfare started when parliament demanded the right to control the militia, the ultimate basis of state power,

and the king refused. Subsequently, when the London militia refused to follow the king's orders and arrest members of parliament, the king fled to muster armed followers and settle the matter by force of arms.

In a repeat of history, the American Revolution was also transformed from dispute to open warfare when the British government halted the importation of gunpowder and began to systematically confiscate arms from the colonists.

From this history, we learn that the right to arms is not some sort of aberration, but a right with deep roots in English history and law. In England, the restoration of the right to arms was formalized in the English Bill of Rights. The establishment of colonies in the New World resurrected these traditions and restored the earlier customs of an armed people. This restoration was formalized in the Second Amendment to the American Constitution.

In Canada, a frontier and its necessities revived the English custom of an armed people. However, our political structure, created as a direct response to the American Revolution, was deliberately shaped to create a very top-down concentration of power. Not surprisingly, our historic right to arms remains officially unrecognized in Canada. In England, a formal Bill of Rights was established in 1689, in America a Bill of Rights was established in 1789. In Canada, a Bill of Rights was not created until 1960 (superseded by the Charter of Rights, 1982) and even then, was so hedged with arbitrary conditions that it is little more than a list of privileges.

Despite this, the culture of an armed people continues in Canada. Against this sometimes despised "gun culture," those who regard Canada as a blank slate struggle to invent an imaginary past suitable to their agendas. 

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AUSTRALIAN ACCURACY

Lithgow's LA101 Crossover rimfire rifle
BY LOWELL STRAUSS

The land down under is famous for its unique native wildlife – kangaroos, koola and platypus. It's also known for feral critters that run amok in the outback, including cane toads, rabbits and feral cats. Australia is less well known for manufacturing firearms.

However, since 1912, in conflicts around the globe, Australian troops have carried weapons made in Australia by Lithgow Arms. The list of firearms

manufactured by Lithgow includes:

- Lee-Enfield 303 British
- L1A1 Self-Loading rifle – the Canadian equivalent was the C1A1 or FN FAL
- Lithgow F90 – the Australian version of the Steyr AUG, the EF88
- Vickers machine guns
- Bren guns
- F1 submachine gun

There's no doubt that Lithgow is the

home of small arms in Australia. For more info on the company's history, check out <http://lithgowarmsmuseum.org.au/history.html>.

But Lithgow also manufactures rifles for the civilian market. And in a target-rich environment like Australia, shooting varmints with accurate rimfires is an extremely popular pastime. From the first time I saw a Lithgow rimfire at the SHOT Show, I was impressed. ▶



The LA 101 Crossover has a two-position safety, which allows the bolt to be opened with the safety engaged.



The bolt locks in the rear of the receiver - a strong design not typically found in rimfire rifles.



The Lithgow LA101 rimfire appeared to be a match-ready rimfire rifle capable of punching paper and ringing steel, as well as ventilating vermin. This was one rifle I was excited to review.

LA101 FEATURES

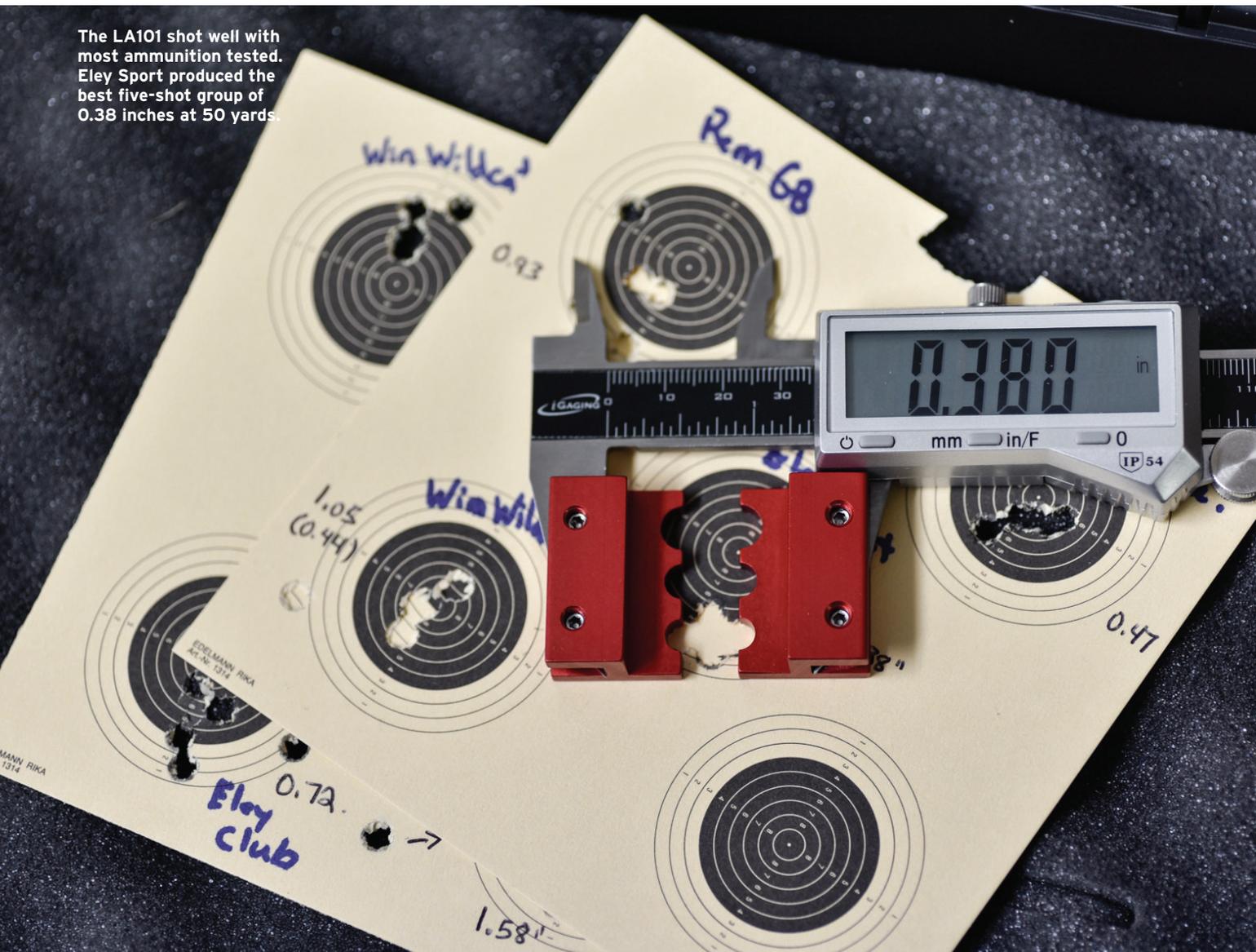
It took a while to get my hands on one. But the wait was worth it. Opening the box, I found the rifle safely tucked in

a cloth draw-string bag – a soft sheath which proudly wore the Lithgow logo. A nice touch compared to the usual plastic bag most rifles are delivered in. With eager anticipation I reached inside, pulling the rifle from its protective cloak. As the dark walnut stock with a unique, wavy grain emerged, I knew this rifle was something special. The fit of the recoil pad was flawless. The ac-

tion mated with the stock perfectly and the inletting for the trigger guard and magazine were exact. I simply could not find any mistakes in the workmanship.

Lithgow uses the same materials, machinery and process to build the LA101 as they do in their military products. If the rifle functioned as superbly as it looked, I was in for a treat. Drilling deeper, I noted that the LA101 includes

The LA101 shot well with most ammunition tested. Eley Sport produced the best five-shot group of 0.38 inches at 50 yards.





premium features not typically found on a rimfire rifle.

If it's the trigger that makes the difference between a good rifle and a great rifle, Lithgow's single-stage, match-grade trigger sets the bar high. I measured the trigger pull at 1.25 kilograms (2.75 pounds) – a little lighter than factory specs. The trigger has no take-up and a crisp break, but with a noticeable overtravel. I think it's a great hunting trigger, but on the heavy side for serious target work. A two-position safety blocks the trigger. Opening the bolt is possible even with the safety engaged.

A 20.5-inch, cold hammer-forged barrel retains its hammered finish rather than being machined smooth. The medium, varmint-weight barrel tapers from 25 millimetres (one inch) at the receiver to 17 millimetres (0.67 inches) at the 11-degree target crown, where it's protected by an 0.5-inch by 20 threaded cap. Rifling in all Crossover models is six groove, right-hand twist. The 17 HMR uses a one-in-nine-inch twist while the .22s (LR and WMR) sport the standard one-in-16-inch twist. Both the barrel and receiver are coated with Cerakote for a low-sheen satin finish.

The action's beefy rear-locking design gains strength from three locking lugs on the bolt, a feature usually reserved for centerfire rifles. It has a push-feed design with a 60-degree bolt lift. Compared to rimfire rifles that rely on the bolt handle to lock the action, this design is much stronger. Due to its tight tolerances and positive locking system, there's no need to be gentle. I can run the bolt fast and hard thanks to its smooth feed and the short bolt throw. During testing, the rifle cycled flawlessly with no failures to feed, fire, extract or eject cartridges. If I find the bolt getting sluggish, it's easily disassembled for cleaning or repair.

The rifle is fed from a flush-fit, five-round detachable magazine. It is made from a see-through polymer, which makes visual inspection easy. Time will tell if this magazine stands up to the rigors of field use, but given the fact that the polymers in the LA101 are the same as used in the Lithgow Arms military weapons, chances are good that it's durable. Rifles come with one magazine, but should you need a replacement or extras, magazines for the CZ 452/455 fit the LA101.

The wood stock is a modern design; a tactical rifle stock combined with the graceful lines and clean, crisp checkering of a classical walnut stock. The stock features a cut out on the bottom called a butt hook, like the McMillan A5 tactical stock (not the same as a butt hook on an Olympic target rifle). Its purpose is for either riding sandbags or controlling the rifle with the non-trigger hand. The action is bedded in the stock and the barrel is fully free-floated.

ACCURACY

So, after much drooling over the rifle's appearance and features, it was time to head to the range and see how the LA101 in 22LR rifle shoots. In the lineup were seven different types of ammunition, including Federal American Eagle, CCI Blazer, CCI Sub-Sonic, Remington Golden Bullet, Winchester Wildcat, Winchester M-22, Eley Club and Eley Sport. At 50 yards, the best five-shot group measured 0.38 inches with Eley Sport, neck-and-neck for second and third place were Winchester Wildcat at 0.45 inches and Federal American Eagle 0.47 inches. Remington Golden

Bullet (bulk ammunition) surprised me, shooting a 0.58-inch group. Winchester M-22 lagged way behind the rest with an abysmal 1.58-inch group. But then, this ammunition is designed for high-volume plinking, not precision shooting. This testing proved again that even in a match-grade rifle, it's still important to test different ammunition to find which one the rifle likes best.

I think there are several reasons why the Lithgow LA101 is such an exceptional shooter. They include a match-grade chamber with tighter tolerances than the SAAMI specs, bedded action and a medium weight, free-floated barrel. Lithgow Arms has also added a choked bore (slight narrowing of the bore diameter near the muzzle) to the Crossover – an additional step in the manufacturing process to further improve accuracy. Add to this a bolt with three locking lugs and a good trigger, and you have the makings of a tack driver.

The LA101 Crossover exhibits a quality found in high-priced European rimfire rifles. Lithgow Arms calls the LA101 rifle the Crossover – both a hunting and target rifle. Its modern design, classic good looks, outstanding accuracy and unstoppable reliability means it excels at both.

The LA101 Crossover is available in three rimfire calibres: 17 HMR, 22 LR or 22 WMR, and in your choice of walnut, laminate or polymer stocks. MSRP is \$1,400 to \$1,495 based on model and options. They are distributed in Canada by Trigger Wholesale and sold at dealers across the country. For more info about these rifles, see Lithgow's website at www.lithgowarms.com. 

SPECIFICATIONS

KEL-TEC CMR-30

CALIBRE: 22

WEIGHT UNLOADED:

8 u s 1 l b s

MAGAZINE CAPACITY: 10

s s t t g s

OVERALL LENGTH: 29.9

s 9 i n c h s

LENGTH COLLAPSED:

22 s

i n c h s

BARREL LENGTH: 1 s

0 i n c h s

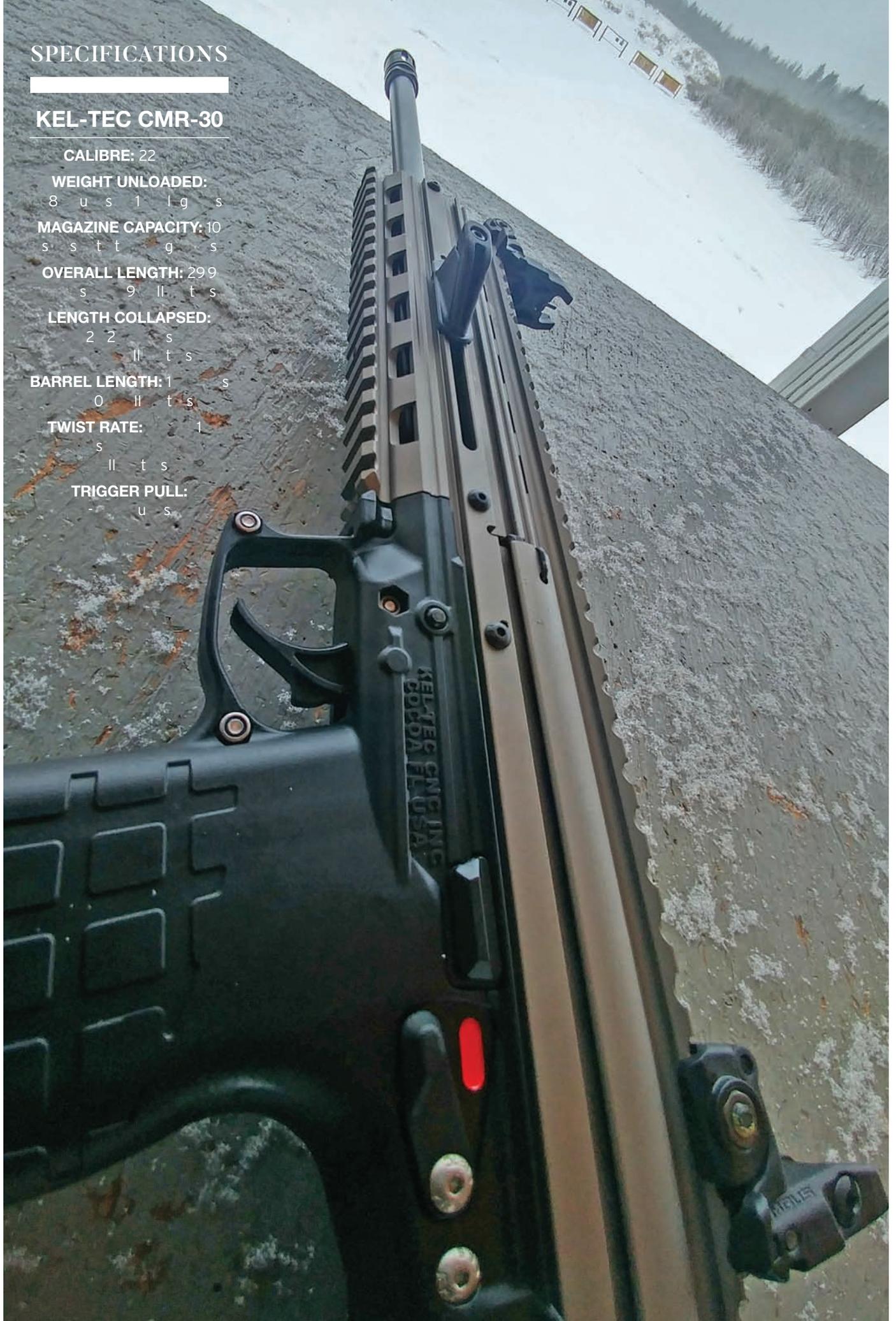
TWIST RATE: 1

s

i n c h s

TRIGGER PULL:

u s





The safety lever is ambidextrous, as is the lever which unlocks the stock for adjustment. The latter is located just in front of the trigger guard.

THE KEL-TEC CMR-30

A multipurpose utility carbine

BY JOSH JUDSON

When the Kel-Tec CMR-30 rimfire, chambered in 22 Winchester Magnum, was released in 2015, I knew I wanted to get my hands on one. Its MP7-like looks, the versatility of its chambering and its compact form had me very interested in the little carbine. Unfortunately, I had to wait three years for it to make its way north, which seems to be a typical wait time here in Canada for a gun that needs modifying to make it non-restricted. Luckily, IRUNGUNS Canada had some non-restricted variants brought in recently from the US. Needless to say, I immediately got my hands on one.

SPECIFICATIONS

Normally, the Kel-Tec CMR-30 would be restricted because its overall length with the stock collapsed is 22.5 inches. However, a simple block installed in the collapsing stock keeps the overall length at 26.25 inches, qualifying the rifle as non-restricted. The words "Canadian Edition" are even embossed on

that block. Being a rimfire, it's still okay with that 16-inch barrel, which is more like 17 inches with the installed bird-cage flash hider. Threads on the barrel are 1/2x28 so the owner can attach any of the wide array of muzzle devices currently available. Thanks to our laws, and similar to the 10/22 Charger fiasco, because the Kel-Tec PMR-30 pistol and CMR-30 rifle take the same magazines, this rifle's magazine capacity is limited to 10 rounds of the original 30-round capacity.

The rifle is a feathery 3.8 pounds unloaded, which is incredibly light, almost to the point of feeling like a toy. Thanks to its aluminium upper receiver and space-age polymer lower, it is, of course, much more durable than a toy. The trigger pull is listed at five pounds; however, I found it had little take up and broke clean, making it feel much lighter. On the last round, the bolt stays open, allowing the user to make use of the bolt release on the left side. The rifle comes equipped with Magpul MBUS

flip-up iron sights, which I found to be a nice touch, and there is a single-point sling loop at the rear of the receiver.

Now let's get to price. With import fees, taxes and the exchange rate, these rifles are going for roughly \$1,050 Canadian. That's not exactly cheap, but this gun might be worth it.

ERGONOMICS

The Kel-Tec CMR-30 has essentially the same ergonomics as the PMR-30, so those familiar with that pistol will have no issues operating the carbine version. For those folks shooting a carbine with pistol-type controls for the first time, it can take getting used to. However, this doesn't mean the controls aren't well placed for ease of use. The CMR-30 has an ambidextrous safety lever near the thumb, a bolt catch/release on the left-hand side (near the thumb for right-handed individuals), a heel magazine release, a stock adjustment lock release lever and an ambidextrous, non-reciprocating charging handle. ▶



The Canadian version of the CMR-30 is made non-restricted by limiting the stock adjustment to ensure the rifle can't be made shorter than 26 inches.



When loading the magazine, it's important to ensure the rim of every cartridge is in front of the rim beneath it.



I found the safety lever easy to manipulate with my thumb, and its small amount of travel made the switch easy. However, the safety lever did not have a positive click to it when actuated. The bolt/slide catch felt the same as on any pistol; however, it's not ambidextrous, so lefties will have to actuate it with their trigger finger. The magazine release on this rifle is at the heel of the pistol grip, at the bottom rear of the magazine well. This was my first time using a magazine release of this style, and I adapted to it quickly. But magazine changes are not as quick as with rifles that have a button release near the thumb or trigger finger.

The stock adjustment lock release lever is located just forward of the trigger guard. It allows for five stock positions including fully collapsed, meaning there's enough adjustment here for almost any shooter. With the included Magpul sights, I found that my cheek rested nicely against the bars of the collapsible stock. The ambidextrous charging handle, located forward on the hand guard, almost looks like a set of small horns from the top, giving the rifle an interesting look. Functionally, the charging handle levers are great. They stick out far enough to allow for easy manipulation, but not so far that its annoying when putting the rifle in a case, or so far that they get caught on clothing. I am impressed with the rifle's design and ergonomics, although I think it could be improved with fully ambidextrous controls, and a thumb-actuated magazine release.

FUNCTION

Simply put, I had a blast shooting this rifle. It functioned flawlessly during my course of fire. Unfortunately, for this review, I was only able to put 200 rounds downrange before the time of writing, all of which were in the same day without cleaning. However, for that 200 rounds, I had no

malfunctions whatsoever. The ammunition used was CCI Maxi-Mag, 22 WMR, 40-grain jacketed hollow-point rounds, also labeled as Troy Landry "CHOOT EM!" ammunition.

Loading the rifle's magazines requires the same finesse as any other rimmed cartridge. When loading, the operator needs to ensure that the rim of the round being loaded is in front of the rim of the previous round, otherwise you get something called rim lock. If the rim of the round being stripped from the magazine is behind the rim of the next round in the magazine, it will prevent the round from being stripped from the magazine and a malfunction results. But I followed proper procedure and did not have any issues. I found the controls took some getting used to, especially the location of the buttstock lock release mechanism. I've shot the Robinson Arms XCR platform a lot and the stock release on the CMR-30 is in the same place as the bolt release for the XCR. So, I found myself hitting it instead of the slide release located just forward of the safety mechanism. But that's a training issue, not a gun issue.

Once I settled in, I started banging steel plates at 100 metres. I was able to hit a six-by-six-inch steel plate with relative ease. Realizing the rifle was more accurate than I expected, I printed some quick groups at 100 metres with the forend supported. With the Magpul MBUS sights, I managed groups ranging from four to six inches. I would speculate this rifle is capable of two-inch groups with an optic, good shooter and the right ammunition. This accuracy is more than sufficient for a round that is practical at under 200 yards. Because this rifle operates on a simple blowback system, for optimal performance it will probably need to be cleaned relatively often, although I wasn't seeing any signs of it needing a cleaning after my 200 rounds. Even when it requires clean-

ing, it is easy to disassemble by removing a single pin, but it's non-captive so don't lose it. For what this rifle is, I am thoroughly impressed with its performance so far, although more rounds downrange would be necessary for a concrete verdict.

ROLE IN THE FIELD

This carbine could serve many purposes because the 22 WMR is a versatile round, capable of covering multiple roles. It can be used for shooting small game such as gophers, grouse and rabbits, and even coyotes at short distances. When that capability is combined with the compact, lightweight and seemingly durable qualities of the Kel-Tec CMR-30, I think the rifle is a winner for a lot of people. Many people in rural areas look for a compact "truck gun" that can fill multiple roles, and this is one worth considering. Others may be looking for a survival rifle, and with its light weight and compact form, this rifle would serve that purpose nicely. I think once these become more available, they will be seen in a lot of Canadian gun safes. But even if you aren't getting one for the practical aspect, they sure are cool looking and fun to shoot.

IS IT WORTH THE PRICE TAG?

Yes, I think it is. This is a quality-built, unique firearm that can take on a working role in the pastures, the bush or at playtime. The price tag is maybe a tad steep, but that is what special modifications for non-restricted status, and our bad Canadian dollar, gets us. Either way, this rifle is worth the price in my opinion. Ergonomics are good, but could use some minor improvement. Weight is a feathery 3.8 pounds, it's compact, fairly accurate, appears durable and, most importantly, runs reliably. Whether you are using your Kel-Tec CMR-30 for your truck gun, survival rifle or just for plinking, chances are good this handy little carbine won't let you down. 🍀



MADE IN TURKEY

Who's who in the world's shotgun manufacturing hub

BY JEFF HELSDON

There was a time, starting in the 1960s, when North American gun makers were turning to Japan for offshore manufacturing. At the time, many gun aficionados believed American or European-made guns were higher quality, and the Japanese firearms were dismissed as inferior. But before long, SKB's high-quality doubles made for Ithaca and Miroku's Brownings started to turn heads and change opinions.

This set the stage for Turkey to prove its mettle as a gun source. Now, in a new century, it seems Turkey is becoming the new source for cheaper manufacturing and high quality.

Weatherby, Mossberg, Winchester and Stoeger now all have guns wearing the "Made in Turkey" label. Brands such as Churchill and Canuck, along with a score of others, are also manufactured in Turkey. Then, in addition, there are Turkish brands such as ATA, Hatsan and Sarsilmaz now being imported into Canada

Turkey's emergence as a recreational firearms manufacturer for North America is not entirely surprising. A look at a list of the world's modern armament manufacturers shows Turkey comes in second only to the US. This list includes military manufacturing, but it gives an idea of the country's technology and manufacturing capability.

In regard to Canadian firearm imports, in 2016 Turkey was the second most popular country of origin, with \$10.8 million worth of guns imported. This was still a far cry from the US's \$75.9

million. But Turkey's growth shines in the shotgun category, where \$10 million worth of guns were imported. Here it is second to the US by only \$800,000, but the nation doesn't break the top five in either the rifle or handgun category. So why Turkey?

That question was best answered by Browning in regard to the Turkish-built Winchester SXP pump shotgun. Browning's public relations/shooting promotions manager, Scott Grange, said, "Naturally, keeping the price down is a factor, but why wouldn't you want to tap a supplier that is very capable of producing a quality product, regardless of global location, while doing so. We are confident that the product coming from our Turkey supplier is of the utmost quality." The SXP is the only gun in either the Browning or Winchester line ups built in Turkey.

While there are too many Turkish guns to cover them all, here are some highlights of who's who.

MOSSBERG

Although Mossberg representatives were reluctant to discuss which shotgun models were made in Turkey, the director of media relations, Linda Powell, confirmed there are shotguns under the Mossberg International brand produced in Turkey. These include over/under guns and semi-automatic shotguns.

The International semi-auto line has only 20 and 28-gauge models. These include field, turkey, tactical and youth

models. The 28-gauge youth models are one of the few youth shotguns built in this gauge. The International Silver Reserve II offers many features only seen on higher-end guns, such as extensive receiver engraving and ported barrels on the sporting model. One of the unique models is a combination gun in 12/20-gauge or 20/28-gauge.

WEATHERBY

Famed for its rifles, Weatherby has always turned offshore for its shotgun manufacturing. Italy and Japan have both been past sources, but Turkey now gets the nod.

"Turkey reminds me of what Italy was in the early years, with a lot of manufacturers," said Dean Rumbaugh, Weatherby's historian.

The Orion, Weatherby's over/under and latest Turkish-manufactured version, was launched in 2014. Different versions of this gun were previously manufactured in Japan and Italy. The latest edition comes only in 12 gauge, and a sporting model was added this year. Rumbaugh assured me there are no concerns about the quality of the Orion.

"If Weatherby's name is on it, it will be a quality product."

Although I couldn't get confirmation from Weatherby, it seems to be widely believed that Turkey-based ATA manufactures the company's semi-automatic shotguns. Weatherby's gas-operated SA-08 line and inertia-driven Element guns have field, waterfowl, synthetic and turkey models available. ▶

STOEGER

Stoeger, which is owned by the Beretta Group, manufactures all of its semi-automatic and pump shotguns in Turkey. These guns come with a five-year warranty and have proven to be solid.

"We have had no issues since taking ownership and making the traditional changes thereafter through acquisition," said George Wallace of Stoeger Canada.

With the Beretta Group owning both Benelli and Stoeger, and both semi-automatics having inertia-drive systems, rumours abound regarding the similarity of the actions. Wallace said the actions are not the same, but there might be some similar parts. He compared the system presently used by Stoeger to what Benelli first used in their guns 25 years ago in models like the 121, SBE 1 and M1s90.

ATA

ATA offers one of the widest selections of Turkish shotguns, plus the company makes a bolt-action rifle. It is also one of the older companies, dating back to 1956. The company has two lines of gas-operated semi-automatics, with one promoted as a lightweight line. There is an inertia-operated model and an over/under. Within each line are several options, including field, sporting, synthetic, camouflage-stocked, tactical and trap models. There is literally a shotgun for every use in ATA's lineup.

ATA promotes the Turqua as the first bolt-action rifle from Turkey. Currently only offered in 308 Winchester, the Turqua is a unique-looking gun with a flush magazine. It has a 60-degree bolt throw, two-stage adjustable trigger, oil-finished walnut stock, three-position safety and an optional adjustable stock.

HATSAN

In business since 1976, Hatsan manufactures shotguns and pellet guns. Their Escort line of semi-automatic and pump shotguns includes a wide variety of tactical, hunting and competition guns. Their semi-auto guns are packed with features, including chrome-lined barrels, aluminum alloy receivers for light weight, stocks adjustable for drop, cast and length of pull, and the Smart Piston system designed to shoot everything from light loads to 3.5-inch magnums. Plus, Hatsan is the only licensed manufacturer using Mossy Oak camouflage patterns in Turkey.

The Optima line of double and single-barrel shotguns includes trap, hunting and slug models. This line also sports a feature normally found only on higher



Staff from the Tillsonburg Gun Shop are holding, left to right, a Churchill, a Stoeger and an ATA Venza - all Turkish products.





Markings indicating Turkish origins are commonly seen on shotguns, as on this Stevens 555.

end guns, both extractors and ejectors. Of course, the walnut is Turkish, and there are selective triggers, chrome-lined barrels and a gold trigger.

PCP air guns offer some groundbreaking features for pellet guns, including semi-automatic and single shot designs in .17, .22 and .25 calibre.

SAVAGE/STEVENS

The Stevens 555, which is the company's over/under shotgun, is built by KOFS in Turkey. Designed to offer quality at an affordable price, this gun packs a lot into a package for less than \$1,000. It features Turkish walnut, chrome-lined barrels, a selective trigger and aluminum receiver. Tipping the scales at 6.15 pounds for the 12-gauge, it's only five-and-a-half pounds in 20-gauge. It is also available in 28-gauge and 410-bore.

When asked why Turkey was chosen for this gun, Jared Hinton, communications coordinator for Savage Arms, replied, "The relatively low production costs mean Savage is able to market a reasonably priced, well-designed, well-built shotgun."

CHURCHILL

Not to be confused with E.J. Churchill's fine English shotguns, which have price tags into the thousands of British pounds, these guns are manufactured by Akkar in Turkey. Akkar was founded in Istanbul in 1989 with the sole focus of manufacturing shotguns.

Today, Akkar produces sporting, hunting and tactical shotguns. These are manufactured in a wide variety of actions: over/under, side-by-side, triple barrel, semi-automatic and pump-action. But Churchill is not the only trade name under which manufacturing is done; you can also include Mammut, Altay, Karatay, Maxi-Mag, M-2000, Armstrong, Apache, Komanchi, Poseidon and Polaris.

WINCHESTER

The SXP is the latest in a line

of Winchester pumps that started with classics like the 1897 and the Model 12. When high costs forced the end of the Model 12, Winchester introduced the 1300. It gained fame as the "speed pump" for its fast follow-up shots, pointability and handling. When the Winchester plant closed in New Haven, Conn., in 2006, the company was without a pump until the 2011 introduction of the SXP. Winchester's parent company, Browning, had the gun built in Turkey, and it's offered in a wide variety of configurations in 12 and 20-gauge.

SARSILMAZ

This company claims to be the only Turkish company with the capability to produce guns for military, law enforcement and civilian use. They manufacture semi-automatic pistols, revolvers and a variety of shotguns, with their handguns widely available in Canada.

The SP-WSS Noble is a sleek, modern over/under. The pump line includes hunting and tactical models. A variety of semi-auto models are available with traditional wood stocks, camouflage stocks, youth and tactical models in various gauges.

CANUCK

Canuck's story, and connection to Turkey, is a unique one. All Canuck guns are engineered and designed in Canada by Phil O'Dell, Ian Mahler and Ben Krete. O'Dell was previously the head of Diemaco (now Colt Canada) and in that role helped design the C-7 for the Canadian Armed Forces.

"While many other distributors import guns, no other importers have the relationships and technical know-how with Phil O'Dell to partner with the manufacturers and produce leading-edge designs," said Ian Mahler, Canuck's general manager. "This is true for our importation of the Canuck Defender, Regulator, Commander, Renegade, Edge, Sentry and the new semi-auto 12-gauge

competition gun coming this summer, the Canuck Mauler."

The Canuck line comes with a two-year warranty. The over/under shotguns in particular are gaining a reputation for good quality at a reasonable price. But the Canuck line offers many other options, including semi-auto shotguns and pumps. Mahler couldn't disclose the plants where the shotguns are made, but did say the company uses a variety of Turkish plants and that they are the same ones which many well-known gun manufacturers use. Sarsilmaz and Tisas manufacture the handguns, which include a Browning Hi-Power clone and a 1911 pistol with a maple leaf etched on each grip.

Semi-auto shotguns are aimed at the hunting market, with two camouflage models and one blued. The over/under includes a blued and camouflage model, plus an adjustable trap model and a combo two-barrel and under-single set. Pump guns with short barrels are aimed at the tactical and self-defence market.

DERYA

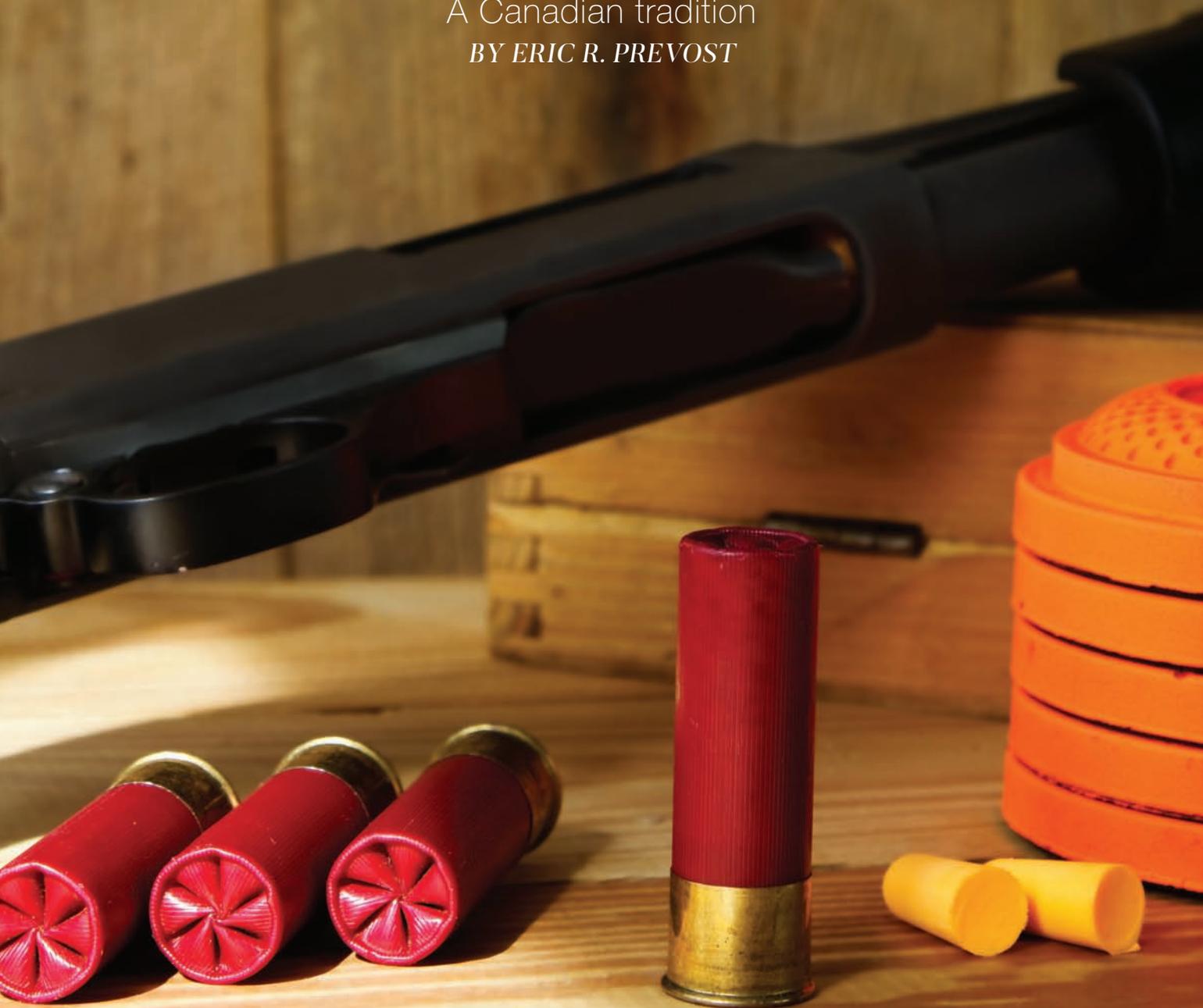
Derya manufactures shotguns for hunting, sporting and tactical purposes, but is best known for its tactical shotguns. The Derya line is the tactical gun bearing the company name. The Lion line includes the Conceal hunting gun, Sport for competition, as well as pump and single-shot lines.

That's 11 manufacturers, and it may not include everyone. That list is long enough to ensure a lot of people have Turkish guns in their safes, although many shooters might not be aware of it. Considering Turkey is a relatively new player in the North American firearms market, they could grow to be a dominate force. With their guns gaining a reputation for good quality at a reasonable price, it's likely the Turkish firearms industry will be around for a long time. 🇹🇷

TRAP SHOOTING

A Canadian tradition

BY ERIC R. PREVOST





Trap shooting is a sport for everyone.

"Pull!" A competitor calls for a target that launches from the trap house in a blur. Seconds later, it explodes to dust under the sound of a shot.

"Pull," calls the next competitor. This is repeated 25 times, from each of the five competitors, and the round is complete. The most focused, fastest and disciplined shooter wins the match.

Practiced by millions, in almost every country in the world, and one of the oldest Olympic medal sports, trap is one of the most popular shooting sports in the world. Men and women, young and old, have been practicing trap shooting since its inception in Europe during the late 1800s. While Canadians flock to hockey arenas to support our national passion, many other countries invest millions of dollars of government funding into supporting shooting sports, including trap and its athletes. Last year alone, over 5,000 high school-aged youth participated in the Minnesota State High School Championships

and over 6,000 participants were in attendance at the National Amateur Trap Association Finals in Sparta, Ill. And that's only a handful of the roughly eight million competitors in North America.

So, what is trap shooting? The most basic explanation is that you use a shotgun to blast a small clay frisbee as it flies through the air. To expand a bit, the targets are called clay pigeons and the machine that launches them through the air is called a trap. Shooters, in groups of five, line up behind the trap and take turns calling for targets, which are then shot with a 12-gauge shotgun. A total of 25 targets are thrown per shooter, making the maximum score for a single competitor 25 points. Add factors such as wind, competition, lack of hard focus and the nuances that come with any sport, and a possible 25 quickly turns into something noticeably less.

One of the best features of trap shoot-

ing is its inclusive and level playing field. Women, men, youth, seniors, abled and disabled can all compete together on a relatively equal basis. It is truly an inclusive sport, geared to a variety of abilities. Many local and regional clubs have completed necessary access upgrades to allow a variety of people to fully utilize a club's facilities. In the UK alone, the Disabled Shooters Group supports a significant membership of shooters who participate in events across Europe. The organization's efforts have also led to the development of World Cup and Paralympic trap shooting events.

The Peterborough Trap and Skeet Club, located just north of Peterborough, Ont., is one of many trap shooting ranges in Ontario. Supporting shooters of all ages, the club provides a safe and open environment that supports athletes through their development. Many of the club's current members are competitive shooters, >



Hitting that little clay pigeon is harder than it looks.

travelling across southern Ontario and into the US to practice their sport. Jim Clement, an active member of the club, and inductee to the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame, has been participating in the Quinte Trap Interclub League for over 47 years. Male and female shooters from 13 to 80 years old all flock to the club on Wednesdays and Sundays to challenge themselves and each other.

So why is trap not at the forefront of competitive sports in Canada? The answer to that question is not as simple as it may seem. Equipment ownership and knowledge of use is often a limiting factor for many, but this is simply overcome by attending a local club. Trap competitors are an open group of people who are happy to introduce new shooters to the sport. You don't need a

firearms licence to try the sport of trap under the direct supervision of a qualified shotgun owner.

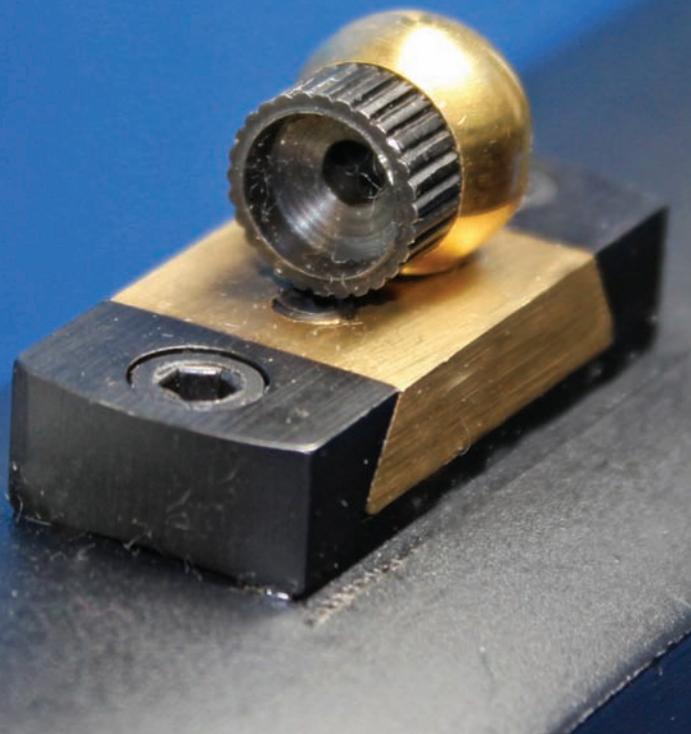
Trap shooting offers competitors a safe, interactive sporting event that has international recognition and support. In North America, the Amateur Trapshooting Association is the body that organizes and regulates the sport, holding registered shoots across Canada and the US. The association also supports the development of youth competitors through endowments, scholarships and other supporting programs. On a broader stage, the International Shooting Sports Federation supports World Cup and Olympic events. Canada's own Susan Natrass has competed in six Olympic games and won numerous gold medals at world championship events. Her accolades

even include winning gold medals in the 1981 and 2006 World Championships, 25 years apart.

Shotgun sports, such as trap, offer something different to the competitor. The power of the firearm, mixed with the fluid motions of engaging the target with the right follow through, hand/eye co-ordination, balance and foot control all come together as a mix of tennis, softball and martial arts. As one improves, the real challenge, and one all high-level athletes face, is the intense mental concentration and focus required. It's these unique aspects of the sport that draw people to it.

Give trap a try. Come out to your local club or range and someone there will be happy to show you around. Who knows, maybe you will be the next Canadian Trap Champion. 🏆

The Skinner Black Gold sight adds a little bling to an otherwise plain 10/22.



A complete set of Skinner 10/22 sights.



Tools required to install and adjust Skinner Sights.

SKINNER SIGHTS

Rugged & accurate aperture sights

BY JEFF SMITH

Last fall, I was looking for new sights for my 1970 vintage Ruger 10/22, which has always worn an old, but serviceable, Weaver scope. However, I wanted a slimmer rifle that's easier to pack. Most of my shooting is at 50 metres, and even less if I am hunting small game in the bush, so I don't really need an optic. What I really wanted was an easy-to-mount, rugged and accurate iron sight. I mentioned my ideas to Andy Larsson, owner of Skinner Sights, a small sight manufacturer located in St. Ignatius, Montana, and he sent me a neat aperture sight to try.

I received a complete set of sights consisting of the rear aperture, two front sights (one blackened and the other brass) and a dovetail blank. The sight provided is their Black Gold Model 860 Reliable sight. The name derives from the fact many manufacturers use a rear sight mount hole spacing of .860 inches. The mounting screws, which are included, are common 6-48s, ensuring a solid attachment to the gun. It's a simple matter of removing the factory plug screws or the scope mount, as required, then placing the aperture

base in alignment with the holes and tightening the screws. A drop of Blue Loctite will help prevent loosening.

There's a good chance you'll also need to replace the front sight with a higher version, and Skinner Sights sells these in both blued or brass. Installation is simple here, too, just drift the sight out from left to right with a brass punch and hammer. To install the new one, try to push it into the dovetail. If it won't go in, you'll need to carefully file the angled base of the sight, but not your rifle. To do this properly requires a triangular file with one side ground smooth, so you don't remove metal from the wrong surface. You can make this file yourself or order one from Skinner Sights. Take a couple of passes with the file, then try tapping it in place.

Sighting in your rifle is easy. Mount it in a rest as usual, take a few shots and adjust the rear sight accordingly. Windage and elevation is adjusted via a pair of set screws located on the base. Loosen and adjust, then snug them finger tight. Do not use threadlocker on these screws, as it will void your

warranty. You may also have to carefully file the front sight for height, but this should be rarely needed. Complete directions are found on the website.

To date, I am very pleased with my Skinner Sights. Installation was easy, and the rifle looks and shoots great. With its new slimmer profile, it is easy to carry, and the sight picture is fast to acquire. The brass colour of the Black Gold model even adds a bit of snazziness to an iconic rifle.

Additional accessories available include a dovetail filler blank to install where the original rear sight was located. Installation is similar to the front sight. Your sight will come with one aperture in place, and if you desire different sizes they are available for order. Skinner Sights machines a wide variety of aperture sights from solid steel, stainless and brass, and for a wide variety of firearms, then hand finishes each sight to close tolerances. Their sights are rugged, accurate and elegant looking when installed. Best of all, they are available directly to Canadian shooters from the manufacturer. Check them out at www.skannersights.com. 



The SnapSafe arrives in a relatively compact box with assembly required.

SNAPSAFE

The DIY gun safe
BY KEN BAILEY

Security is a legal obligation for firearms owners in Canada. Our responsibility is to comply with legislation that mandates safe storage to protect against unauthorized access. Concurrently, as collectors, hunters or shooters, we want to protect our guns against loss or damage.

While the vast majority of us comply with our legal responsibilities, logistical barriers often dictate that we use gun lockers rather than true gun safes. Frankly, quality gun safes weigh too much to easily move up and down stairs, into small utility rooms, or into many apartments and condos. And there's no mistaking the appearance of a gun safe, so the arduous task of manhandling one into your home, much like moving a piano, leaves little to your neighbour's imagination – they quickly identify that you're a gun owner. As a result, we're meeting the legal requirements with our flimsy gun lockers, but our firearms are stored behind thin walls that afford little protection against even moderately determined thieves or fire. Fortunately, there's now an alternative.

SnapSafe, a firearms storage and protection company owned by Hornady,

has developed a modular gun safe that allows you to quickly and easily move a high-quality gun safe, piece by piece, into any room in your home, irrespective of where you live. And the nosy Parkers next door will never suspect what's in those cardboard boxes.

I was first introduced to SnapSafe by Troy Flasch of Korth Group, Canada's Hornady reps and distributors, at the 2018 SHOT Show. I was immediately impressed, and soon after getting home I spoke to Troy about looking at one in detail. In turn, he invited me to their facilities to put one together from scratch and determine for myself if the quality, strength and level of protection was as advertised, and whether it really was a "snap" to assemble.

Troy and I started with SnapSafe's Titan model, the smallest of the four they offer, strapped onto a pallet just as it would be delivered to your home. And deliver they do; in fact, delivery to your door is part of SnapSafe's business model.

The Titan is described as having capacity for 12 or more long guns. Frankly, as I find with most gun safes I've inspected, I don't see how someone

could store the number of guns they advertise you can, but SnapSafe also offers 24-gun, 36-gun and 56-gun models, so you can select the one that best meets your needs.

Despite being the smallest of its family, the Titan weighs 400 pounds, logarithmically greater than a gun locker of similar outside dimensions. Inside the large, outer carton were eight or so smaller boxes, each containing one or more sections of the safe. The single heaviest box, containing the door, weighed 90 pounds, a manageable size for most of us and certainly no problem if you've got a buddy to help. In fact, even with the Super Titan XXL double-door model, which weighs over 900 pounds when assembled, each door, at 90 pounds, is the single heaviest component.

All SnapSafes come complete with all of the hardware and tools, including a quality socket wrench, required to completely piece together the unit. They have an online video (www.snapsafe.com) providing assembly instructions, and each comes with relatively easy to understand printed directions. Being men, however, and in true DIY fashion,

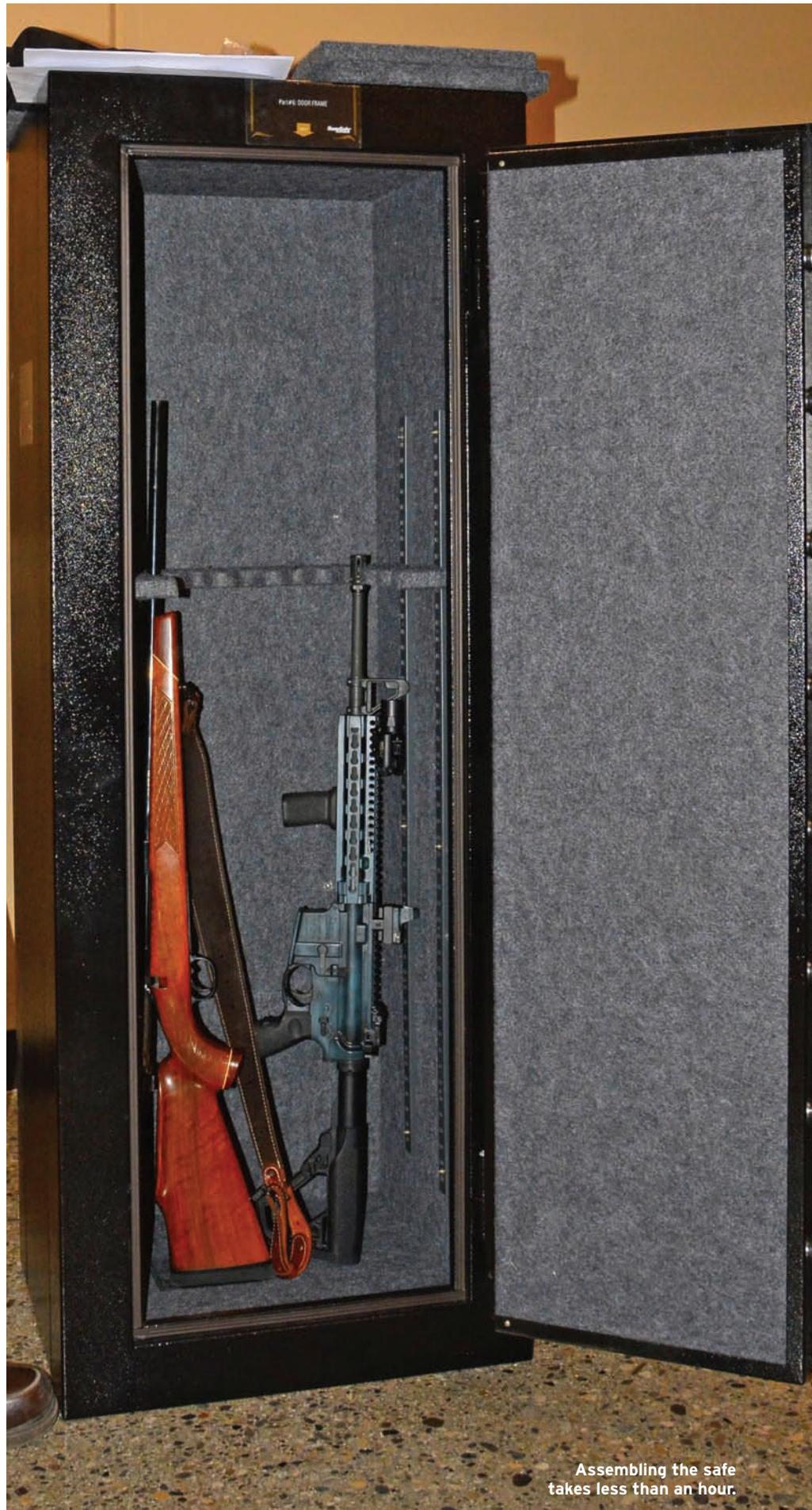
Troy and I elected to wing it. As a result, at one point we had to partly disassemble – what we'd built – apparently it matters that you put the back and side panels together in the correct order! Notwithstanding our faux pas, we had the safe completely assembled and ready for guns in about an hour. Every piece, panel and part fit to a T. Had we bothered to read the directions, we'd have trimmed assembly time to 40 minutes. Let me tell you, the engineers at Ikea could learn a thing or two about build-it-yourself furniture from the folks at SnapSafe.

I was prepared to come away a little disappointed, figuring it must be an inferior product if it arrived in component parts, but I was nothing short of impressed. Consider the following attributes each SnapSafe boasts: sledgehammer and pry bar-resistant two-ply, nine-gauge steel doors; one-hour fire protection up to 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit; heat-activated fire seals on the door; internal panels of magnesium oxide that are nearly impervious to fire, moisture and insects; a dead-bolt locking mechanism featuring eight one-inch steel bolts. Further, a heavy, steel deadbolt runs the entire length of the hinge side of the door so that, once locked, the door cannot be removed, even if the hinges are cut off. A digital primary locking mechanism is standard, but each safe can be opened with a mechanical key should there be any kind of failure. To further ensure against movement, each safe is pre-drilled to allow for easy floor mounting.

The interior shelves and side panels are functionally lined and can be adjusted to meet your personal needs. To further customize your SnapSafe, a wide variety of optional accessories are available, including dehumidifiers, hygrometers, lights, hooks, baskets, handgun hangers, door organizers and more. It's a very simple matter to make each safe perform as you want it to.

SnapSafe units are not a cheap or economy option, as they cost roughly the same as comparable quality safes that come pre-assembled.

"SnapSafes are about convenience and portability, not cost," Troy reminded me. It made sense when he said it – the SnapSafe we assembled was truly a quality unit, well-suited to those situations where a heavy, pre-assembled gun safe is not a viable option. 🍷



Assembling the safe takes less than an hour.



TEETH & CLAWS

A professional's recommendations
for wilderness self defence

BY DUANE RADFORD

Outdoor enthusiasts have good reason to be concerned for their safety in the Canadian outdoors. The list of those who have been mauled or killed by black bears, grizzlies, polar bears, cougars and, on rare occasions, even coyotes and wolves, is too long. The consequences of being attacked by large carnivores in remote areas are particularly problematic. Help may be impossible to access, and victims end up dying from their injuries or from hypothermia. A recent case involved a 32-year-old hunter near Sunde, Alta. It's a miracle this hunter survived the severe mauling he received.

Bear attacks, for example, happen without warning or provocation. Sometimes they are predatory in nature, or the attacks are intended to protect cubs. Other times, a person just happens to stumble on a kill site being watched by a protective grizzly.

While lots of outdoors people carry bear spray and bear bangers, you can't always count on them to repel an attack. A friend of mine was attacked by a black bear and only had time to shoot John Wayne style as it lunged towards him. Fortunately, he killed it with a single shot scant yards away. You can never be too careful while in bear country. Hunters and trappers are particularly vulnerable to being attacked because they are often trying to be quiet and, as a result, surprise an aggressive bear.

To get some advice on wilderness self defence, I interviewed an old friend, David O'Farrell, the owner of Grizzly Creek Lodge, Yukon. O'Farrell not only operates a fishing lodge, but also has a registered trapline and guides big-game hunters. He has a couple of Karelian bear dogs at his lodge just in case a bear shows up. This breed is notorious for putting the run on bears that wander into camps. "I wouldn't be without them," O'Farrell said. "We rarely see bears in camp anymore, and the dogs are so alert there is no way a bear could get close without them knowing it."

"First off, the best bear protection is right smack between our ears. Common sense goes a long way," O'Farrell said. He's had a few chilling experiences with bears



A pump-action 12-gauge loaded with slugs is a top choice for wilderness self defence.

during a lifetime in the Yukon where the number of grizzlies (6,000 to 7,000) and black bears (10,000) are among the highest in Canada. He told me, "If you are asking strictly about self-protection, a 12-gauge shotgun is hard to beat."

I followed O'Farrell's advice about shotgun on the last backcountry trip I made to the Yukon.

An Ithaca factory representative emailed me the following: "When using rifled slugs, use an improved cylinder (IC) or modified choke. Some rifled slugs have a slightly harder lead that should only be used in an IC choke."

Shotgun slugs achieve velocities of approximately 1,800 feet per second for one-ounce slugs, with energy over 3,100 foot-pounds. This illustrates the stopping power of a shotgun slug at close range.

"To me, a short-barreled, pump-action 12-gauge shotgun is ideal for bear defence. Mine is a Winchester 1300 Defender model," said O'Farrell.

O'Farrell also has two Marlins, which he uses for self-defence because of their handling characteristics. He says they're extremely fast to cycle, well balanced and easy to carry.

"That makes it more likely I'll

This starving grizzly attacked David O'Farrell and a hunter client while they were boating down a shallow river.



Bear spray is effective, but can't be relied on in all situations.

have one in my hand if I need it," he claimed. "The external hammer is a nice safety feature, as well, as I can see at a glance if it's cocked or not. I never carry a round in the chamber, except when trailing a wounded bear... period."

One rifle is chambered for 45-70 Government, the other is a 444 Marlin. He said a limiting factor while guiding is their rainbow trajectory, making them best inside 100 to 150 yards. In the 444 Marlin, he uses 265-grain Hornady FP bullets. In the 45-70 Government, he uses the old 405-grain Remington bullets. Both Marlins have

open sights, which he prefers because they are faster to get on target.

I asked about handguns. O'Farrell said, "If you look at the data on bear fatalities, you will see a lot of evidence suggesting the victim had time to fight. I know a few guys personally who have survived a bear mauling, and they agree." He feels very strongly that carrying a handgun at all times could save your life. "If a bear gets on you, your chances of survival are much greater if you have something on your body that you can get to. You will hear all kinds of stories about handguns not being powerful enough.



Hunters who down big game need to realize they've just created a potential bear magnet.

That is pure hogwash. There is a lot of evidence to prove they are lethal, including the conservation officer in Montana who is alive because he had a 357 Magnum.”

By law, generally, the only firearms allowed for wilderness protection in Canada are non-restricted rifles and shotguns. However, there are exceptions for licensed, professional trappers and individuals who need protection from wild animals while working at their lawful occupation, most often in a remote wilderness location. These individuals, provided they are Canadian residents and have a licence that allows them to possess restricted firearms, may be authorized by a provincial chief firearms officer

to carry a handgun or a restricted long gun for wilderness protection.

A few years ago, O’Farrell was charged by a grizzly while ferrying fuel on the Smith River. It was autumn, the water was low and he was alone. He killed the motor at a spot he knew he’d have to pull the boat through. He had just grabbed the boat when something on a sandbar caught his eye. A big, boar grizzly was bearing down on him. He could see the four legs of a kill sticking up in the air behind the grizzly, so O’Farrell knew his life was in danger. His first shot hit the bear in the chest at 20 yards, turning it, before he shot a second time and killed it. He had a grizzly bear licence, so he tagged it. Later,

he reported the incident to a Yukon conservation officer who told him that it’s legal to shoot a bear if a person felt threatened.

“Obviously this doesn’t mean at 200 yards. Again, common sense. I go by the situation. Any time a bear comes at you during the night, it is predatory and you better defend yourself at the first opportunity. A bear on a kill that comes at you might be bluffing, and it might not. If its ears are back and its mouth is open, chances are good it will not stop,” O’Farrell said.

He added, “The best advice I can give is to never let a bear get closer than you can reliably stop it with whatever you have.”

He once surprised a sow grizzly with

a small cub at incredibly close range. As soon as he saw them, he stopped moving. He stood completely still, not moving a muscle. The sow woofed really loud and that sent the cub scurrying up the mountain. The sow stood up and looked right at O'Farrell. He stood still, and she dropped down and followed the cub. She ran about 20 yards, then stopped, turned around and stood up and again gave him the evil eye. He never moved, and she finally took off. She was way too close when he first saw her, but he just felt good about the situation.

"Every situation is different, but as a general rule, I do not let them get too close," O'Farrell said. "For me, that distance is 20 yards. I know how fast they can move."

He believes there are a few things that are important to understand. The first is that, of course, bears can kill you, but in general they choose to leave people alone. Habitat plays a role, too. In areas where bears are around a lot of people, they tend to become aggressive more often than in the wilderness. In the Whitehorse area, the COs put down an incredible

number of bears each summer.

O'Farrell cautioned, "Be aware of your surroundings, and be prepared. When the berry crop is low, there will be more human/bear conflicts. Be realistic about what you choose to carry to protect yourself. A firearm is useless if you are not proficient with it. Bear spray, for example, won't always work in high-wind situations or inside your tent at night."

"A lifetime spent in bear country, for many months each year, has taught me that the one thing you can count on is that bears are incredibly unpredictable," O'Farrell said. "You just never know what they will do. The two closest calls I ever had were in situations that I felt 100 per cent safe. Once I was in a boat floating along and a starving grizzly jumped into the water and almost got me, and another time a young two-year-old black bear almost got me while I was standing beside my quad. I had no idea he was even there – a 12-gauge saved me that day."

If there's a lesson regarding what O'Farrell has learned, it's that there are no givens when dealing with wilderness self defence. 🇨🇦

Backcountry Safety

My mantra during outdoor excursions is simple - hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. Plan ahead for what you should do if attacked by a bear or cougar. What will you do when an attack is imminent? If you're travelling with other people, make sure you're all on the same page when it comes to a contingency plan, including administering first aid. Carry a 12-gauge shotgun with slugs or have it handy in camp. If you're not armed, every person in your party should have bear spray. Also have bear bangers to scare a bear away from camp. Consider renting a satellite phone so you have communications. Then make sure you have the phone numbers of local authorities to call in case of an emergency. Take a quality first aid kit. Practice using bear spray and bear bangers. Pay for medevac insurance in the event of a worst-case scenario. It's all part of planning to deal with a crisis, which can happen to even the most experienced outdoors person.

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TWO GUNS IN A TWO-CAR GARAGE

Building a firearms business in Nova Scotia

BY DON MACLEAN

Doug Hnatiuk was a busy man the day I dropped into Hnatiuk's Hunting and Fishing in the community of Lantz, outside Halifax. He oversees a family-run business, which has grown from a taxidermy studio to include a retail store, training facility, gun club, shooting range and, recently, a supplier of firearms and props to the film and theatre industry.

Doug found a staff member to mind the gun counter as we headed into the shooter's lounge in the back of the store to have a chat. I interviewed Doug's father, Jim Hnatiuk, a few years ago about their taxidermy business, so I had some knowledge of that side of their business. Doug's father retired in 2017 and, while he drops in from time to time, Doug told me he is enjoying the opportunity in retirement to take his grandchildren hunting and fishing.

BEGINNINGS

I began by asking Doug how the retail business developed.

"I started working with Dad in the taxidermy business. We were busy during hunting season, but business slowed down during the rest of the year, so I began looking for ways to expand the business."

Doug enrolled in an entrepreneurial program offered by the Nova Scotia government in 1999 and the next year, with

the help of a \$20,000 loan, he opened a retail outdoor business in the two-car garage next to his home, which was also next door to the taxidermy business.

"What did you sell?" I asked.

Doug laughed. "When we first opened, we had some outdoor gear and two guns. That was it. We had a 12-gauge Remington 870 and a Remington 710 in 30-06. That was the beginnings of the retail side of the business. From there, we went on to build this store and, a few years ago, we built the shooting range."

I asked Doug if the early years were tough.

"Well, we already had the taxidermy business so when customers found out we also had a retail business they would usually come over to see what we had. It built from there."

RETAIL

I asked him how business is these days. He shook his head

"It's a constant struggle; you have to be on top of things all the time. Sure, there's competition from national chains that are in the firearms business, but the biggest challenge I find is staying on top of what customers want."

"In what way?" I asked.

"Well, they see products on TV or the Internet and they want them, usually right away. Often, these are American products which won't make their way

to Canada for six to 12 months. Staying on top of current trends and getting the stock customers want is a big part of the business."

Having worked in the natural resources sector, I'm aware of the aging demographic making up the hunting and fishing community in Nova Scotia, so I asked Doug if he was seeing that reflected in his business.

"Oh yes, we've seen a slow decline in the number of hunters in the past several years. There are not as many young people taking up hunting."

I was also curious if Doug was seeing increased interest in black-powder hunting, since the province of Nova Scotia offers both an extended season and, added a few years ago, the opportunity to harvest a second deer using a muzzleloader. In my case, that new season enticed me to purchase a CVA .50 calibre, which led to harvesting my first black-powder buck in the fall of 2017.

"Oh for sure," Doug replied. "The first year the province opened the black-powder season, we sold 400 muzzleloaders. It has dropped to around half that every year now, but there is no question the season, and the increased hunting opportunity it provided, created a lot of interest."

Doug was quick to add, "The decline in hunters has been made up by a growth in sport shooting, especially among



Staying on top of customer needs and trends is a big part of Doug's business.



The business has recently expanded to include a seven-position indoor range.

younger people, both male and female.”
 “What kinds of things are they interested in?” I asked.

“Cowboy action is becoming very popular and we sponsor a group in Cape Breton, the Highland Highwaymen Mounted Shooters Club. We also have shooters who are members of the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) and Precision Pistol Competition (PPC) who shoot at our range every week. A lot of people are interested in long-range shooting and sporting clays is also popular. Nova

Sporting Clays is just up the road and they have a great facility which hosts a lot of shoots.”

TRAINING

I was interested in Hnatiuk's training programs and Doug explained the various courses they offer.

“We have Introduction to Pistol, Level 1 - Advanced Pistol, Level II - Advanced Pistol, Range Safety Officer, Specialized Corporate Training, Reloading, Firearms Maintenance and First Aid. Shooting parties are also popular. People use the

parties as an opportunity for corporate events, to entertain clients, staff parties, team building, birthdays and stag/stagette parties.”

I was impressed with the types of training and events available and wondered how popular they were.

“We offer most courses at least once a month and most courses have five or six people in them,” Doug replied.

I was also curious if, when people took one course, they came back for more advanced training.

“Definitely,” Doug told me. “If someone takes an introductory pistol course, they often return later to take more advanced training. Of course, many students go on to purchase their own handgun, with our biggest seller at that level being the Smith and Wesson M&P 9 Range Kit, which includes a pistol, three mags, holster, speed loader and mag pouch.”

I was also interested in learning more about the part of their business which supplies props to TV and movie production companies, as well as theatres.

“It depends on the year how much activity there is, but we are often called on to provide firearms, ammunition and animal mounts.”

“Is there much involved with that?” I asked.

“Well, we not only supply the firearms, but we also supply the firearm wranglers who stay on the set to ensure the firearms are handled safely during the filming,” he replied.



Adding an indoor range has added customers and increased interest in the shooting sports.

SHOOTING RANGE

After talking to Doug about their training programs, and the retail side of the business, I asked about the 25-metre shooting range which they opened in 2014.

"It has definitely been an asset. It helped turn our business from a seasonal one, which peaked at hunting and fishing seasons, to a year-round business," Doug said. "It also helps us create customers. We have people attend a shooting party, or take a course, who have never handled a gun. They discover they enjoy shooting, take more courses, become regular shooters and often become members of the shooting club. Eventually they want their own handgun.

"Right now, we have around 400 regular, and 50 platinum members who belong to the club. The range is open to regular members from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Members who buy our platinum package receive a swipe card, which gives them access to the range 24/7."

With 450 members, the club is an active place. But Hnatiuk's also offer shooting parties to celebrate birthdays, which can be up to 30 people. Since many of the people who attend these parties may not be familiar with firearms, I asked Doug how the session would go.

"We begin by bringing them into the shooting lounge and show them a safety video on gun handling. We explain what they can expect before we take them down to the range to shoot under supervision."

"What does a normal session involve?" I asked.

"If they want, everyone gets a chance to shoot a 9mm, an AR and a .22," Doug replied.

"Are the AR's popular?"

"Definitely. Everyone wants to shoot an AR."

I followed Doug downstairs to view the range, and the first thing I noticed was the air handling system, which takes up one wall of the facility. In response to my question about it, he said, "We wanted to ensure we were meeting all air quality requirements, so we went with a state-of-the-art air handling system which ensures there are no issues for the shooters." Installing the system has paid off for Hnatiuk's in other ways, as well. Their range meets the air-quality standards required by the federal government, which enables Canadian Border Services' officers to qualify using Hnatiuk's range.

Doug walked me down the shooting line by the seven stations. The doors at each station can be opened to allow officers to train using a holster. There are also swinging door dividers to provide other training options. Doug took me to the back of the range, where I was curious to learn more about the material they use for their backstop. He told me it was granulated rubber and that they have to de-mine it yearly to remove bullets. Annually, they remove around six tons of lead, which they sell to a scrap metal dealer. Judging by the amount of rubber

present, I guessed this to be a major task. Doug said, "It takes us about 14 hours using two shifts of people, all wearing personal protective equipment. It's a lot of work."

I asked Doug if the government takes an active interest in the range.

"The chief firearms officer for the province makes regular inspections and may also drop in periodically. We have a good working relationship with them, so there have never been any significant issues."

From two guns in a two-car garage, Doug and his family have built a modern firearms business which caters to both hunters and sport shooters. I asked Doug what the future may hold for the business.

"A larger store would be nice. I'd also like to have a 1,000-metre range, but that would require finding a suitable site. Long-range shooting is becoming very popular. I shot at a 700-metre range outside of Fredericton a few years ago at a Leupold Field Day and I loved it."

A new Cabela's store will be opening this year in Dartmouth, about 30 minutes from Hnatiuk's, and I wondered if Doug was concerned. He was philosophical about it.

"We may lose some customers, at least initially, but it may also attract new people to shooting, and we have a range. They don't." An attitude, and approach, which has served Doug and his family well as they build a firearms business in Nova Scotia.

Hnatiuk's website: www.hnatiuks.com. 



Marauder

MEDIUM BORE AIR POWER

Reviewing the .25 calibre Benjamin Marauder

BY AL VOTH

The mature gopher in my crosshairs wasn't sure what to make of me kneeling in the grass about 20 metres away. So, he only sat up halfway, ready to scurry down the hole if the need should arise. When he stopped moving, I squeezed the trigger, but I missed just to the right. I worked the bolt and tried again, holding more aggressively for the wind. I got the windage right this time, but the elevation was off, and I watched the pellet whiz over his noggin. That made him duck but he popped up again right away. My third shot got everything right and the .25-calibre pellet blew through his skull, ending his career as a pest.

That was my first gopher with a .25 calibre Benjamin Marauder pellet rifle, but it wasn't the last farmyard or pasture pest the rifle has eliminated.

After a lifetime of shooting .177 and .22-calibre airguns, I decided it was time to move up a notch and try a larger bore size. While I've shot airguns as large as .375 and .50 calibre, I don't have a regular use for those beasts. But a quest for a small-game airgun with an upgrade in accuracy and power led me to the .25 calibre Benjamin Marauder. And based on how this rifle has performed for me so far, it's a top choice.

MECHANICS

The Benjamin Marauder is a PCP (pre-charged pneumatic) air rifle, meaning it has an onboard air tank which is filled with high-pressure air. Every shot bleeds

a little more air from the tank, until the pressure finally drops below a suitable power/accuracy threshold. In this rifle, that tank can be filled to 3,000 psi. This can be accomplished with a small, purpose-built compressor, using a large scuba-like air tank or via a specialized hand pump. The hand pump is the cheapest option of the three, so guess which one I use.

Air pressure in the gun is monitored by a built-in gauge which is visible underneath the forend. All that air is used to drive lead or alloy pellets at significant velocities. Factory literature says this rifle is capable of speeds up to 900 feet per second, and I don't doubt that's true with lighter-weight pellets. The 27.7-grain Benjamin pellets I use clock at just over 800 feet per second.

The rifle has an eight-shot rotary magazine, which indexes automatically, making the rifle a legitimate bolt-action repeater. However, for a lifelong shooter like myself, this rifle really messed with my head. This is because every time I cycle the bolt of this rifle to shoot again, nothing ejects. Until I got used to it, that threw my subconscious for a loop, because a million or so repetitions over a lifetime have taught me that something must eject. Fortunately, it's not just me. Other shooters I've handed the rifle to do the same thing. Handloaders are the most fun to watch, as they pull back on the bolt and look to catch the expended brass.

The rifle weighs in at 7.5 pounds,

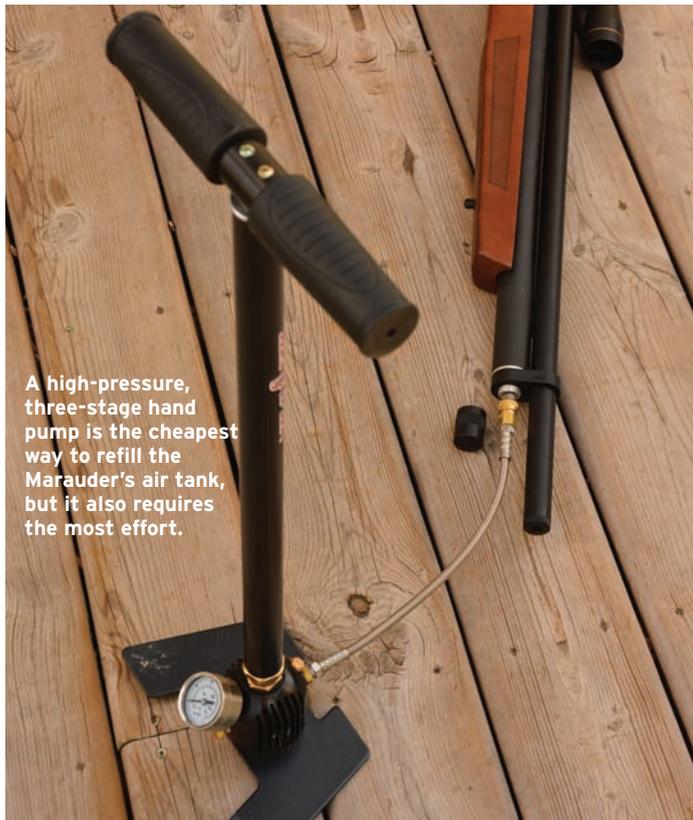
meaning it's too large for most youngsters, but then this isn't a youth air rifle. There are better choices if that's what you're looking for. This is an adult-sized gun with adult features. These include an adjustable, two-stage trigger and a comb that is adjustable for height, both of which make the rifle easier to shoot well. The safety is a simple trigger-blocking lever inside the trigger guard, similar to that seen on the SKS rifle.

The Marauder is not supplied with any iron sights, so scope mounting is a must. Towards that end, a standard 3/8-inch dovetail rides atop the receiver. I'd prefer to see this as a Picatinny rail, but only to make scope swapping with other rifles easier. Typical rimfire mounts are plenty stable enough on a rifle like this, as there is no apparent recoil, from either the projectile or from the slamming action of a typical airgun's piston.

SHOOTING

The compressed air system of PCP airguns is not only almost recoil-free, but it's also the most accurate power plant currently available for air rifles. Additionally, it's the most powerful air system available and the quietest, so you can start to see why I like the Marauder as a hunting rifle. Suppressors may be illegal in Canada, but powerful, quiet air rifles aren't, and if you want to get a sense of how nice using suppressors would be, try this rifle.

I've worked with my rifle out to 50 metres, where I've achieved five-shot



A high-pressure, three-stage hand pump is the cheapest way to refill the Marauder's air tank, but it also requires the most effort.

groups as tight as 0.7 inches, but one inch is a more realistic average. This makes it a perfect 50-metre gun, with potential to stretch out significantly further. A factory test target was included with my rifle; shot at 10 yards, the five-shot group is so small it's hard to measure, but it's less than a quarter inch. I've found the rifle's accuracy is stable, as are velocities, when the air gauge reads between 3,000 and 2,000 psi. Velocities are so consistent, standard deviations in the single digits are the norm, and that is certainly key to the rifle's accuracy.

However, I find that once air pressure drops below 2,000 psi, velocity and accuracy drop off too. Within that 3,000 to 2,000 psi pressure range, I can get 16 to 24 shots before having to recharge the tank. This requires 100 to 120 strokes of the hand pump, with more effort required as the pressure rises. A .177 or a .22-calibre rifle, both of which are available in the Marauder, would get more shots per fill, but neither has anywhere near the killing power of the .25 calibre. At ranges less than 50 yards, this rifle seems to have killing power almost equal to a .22 Long Rifle shooting solid-point bullets.

I've also found the .25 calibre pellet easier to see along its flight path than either of its smaller-sized cousins, no doubt because it's larger and a little slower. As you'd expect, there's a fun factor in being



With its eight-shot magazine, the Marauder is a legitimate bolt-action repeater. Note the window on the magazine which acts as a shot counter.

able to watch your bullet hit. If a PCP rifle is in your future, consider your calibre choices carefully, based on your anticipated use.

No matter which calibre you prefer, the shooting challenges of airguns, some of which are illustrated in the opening paragraph, are present. These include sensitivity to wind and a rainbow-like trajectory. Additionally, the long barrel time of even the fastest airguns requires an exaggerated follow-through from the shooter. But that's just another reason why airguns are so good for training.

Expect to pay as much for one of these rifles as you would for a decent centre-fire rifle, which is \$700 to \$800. And that doesn't include the pump, which will be another \$225. Throw in a can of pellets and you can watch \$1,000 leave your hands quickly. Whether a high-performance airgun is worth that kind of coin to you is a question you must answer for yourself. For me, the quiet power this rifle provides to dispatch pests and vermin makes the answer an unqualified "yes." 

ISTOCK



BEARS

BY MIKE CAMP

I like bears.

I like to watch Mama bear teaching junior to flip rocks on my beach at low tide, searching for small crabs and such.

I like to hear thumping noises outside the house in the middle of a moonless night and imagine it's a big, mean bear trying to break in to eat my food and drink my whisky and then crawl into my nice, warm bed.

I like to look in the mud in the morning light and see large, teddy tracks all around the house. (See! I told you I heard something last night!)

I like to see a big, black bruin at a berry bush sitting down like a proper gentleman, with a napkin around the neck, delicately raking berries off a bush and into a big, pink mouth, and then looking at me as if to say: "Come on over, there's plenty for all of us."

Even when they kept chewing the black plastic water pipe that went to my dam at the creek, I really didn't mind; I guess it looked like a long piece of licorice to them.

And, if they should get too bold and too brassy, I like to shoot them and skin them and cut them up into baby-sized chunks, for there is nothing, absolutely nothing, that makes a stew taste better than putting a plump, friendly bear into it.

I like to go for long walks in the bush, knowing that a bear could be following, trying to sneak up on me, hoping to avenge his fallen comrades by eating me; and, if this should happen some day, really, it would only be fair.

I like bears.



Dr. Caillin Langmann.



Fady Mansour.



Guy Lavergne.

NFA'S 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

C-71: The theme of the AGM
BY JEFF HELSDON

Bill C-71 was the underlying theme of presenters at the National Firearms Association annual convention on May 11 and 12 in Hamilton, Ont. A trio of speakers addressed the crowd on what the bill has in store for gun owners.

Fady Mansour, a criminal lawyer with Edelson and Friedman in Ottawa, is a specialist in firearms law, a die-hard hunter and sports shooter. He started his presentation by pointing out the *Firearms Act* is the only piece of law where the first level of violation results in a criminal record. For instance, he said *Highway Traffic Act* offences result in tickets and fines until a certain threshold is reached, and then a criminal record can result.

"Bill C-71 exasperates that," he said, explaining it creates more offences. He pointed out that many people break firearms laws inadvertently and then see their life changed drastically as they end

up with a criminal record.

Now, with every transfer needing to be approved, he predicted long wait times for approvals.

"I can guarantee a lot of good old boys aren't going to sit on hold for four hours," he said. Then, if the stars align badly for them and they are checked by law enforcement, the person can end up with a criminal record.

Mansour saw no upside to the bill, only a big downside, with more frivolous cases before the court. He suggested the solution is repealing mandatory minimum sentences, simpler firearms law and moving regulatory offences outside of the criminal justice system.

Quebec criminal lawyer Guy Lavergne, who helped fight the transfer of the data to the Quebec registry and is a hunter, marksman and NFA range officer, highlighted some of the additional pitfalls of C-71. He saw the extension of questions on the history of firearms licence ap-

plicants from five years to lifetime as a problem.

"An event of depression, a relationship break up, loss of employment or financial difficulties that occurred many years ago might disqualify you from getting a PAL," he said, adding filing false statements is also a crime.

Requirements that every firearms transaction be verified could be trouble for gun shows. "Gun shows may be on the endangered species list," he said. "How are you going to get approvals on a weekend?"

With no amnesty for unlicensed gun owners, Lavergne saw this as an issue for a person wanting to come into compliance.

"Those people who have firearms (without a licence), although not criminals in the purest sense, won't be able to sell to a licensed gun owner," he explained. "They will have to sell to other people who don't have a licence or sell to

a criminal. How does that deter crime?"

Speaking to C-71's clauses on classifying firearms, Lavergne said the government has kept the ability to classify firearms to a more restricted class, but took away the government's ability to re-classify to a less restrictive class. He explained C-71 would create a special class of firearms for the CZ-858 and SAN Swiss Arms rifles. Lavergne predicted a similar class could come in the future for AR-15s, and its clones.

Dr. Caillin Langmann, a Hamilton emergency-room physician, said he heard the rhetoric from the government and anti-gun lobby, claiming the long-gun registry increased public safety. But he noticed this wasn't what he was seeing in ER and decided to investigate.

He used Statistics Canada data and plugged it all into a data analysis computer program. His results were peer reviewed and confirmed to be pure sci-

ence without political influence. Langmann looked at the historical changes in licensing for firearms owners, dating back to the start of Firearms Acquisition Certificates in 1979 and included the start of C-68 in 2001. He found that licensing and the other changes didn't make a statistical difference in the crime rate.

Whether or not background checks work was another question Langmann tackled. He found only a 20 per cent recurrence rate of another crime for those found guilty of spousal homicide.

"If you aren't likely to commit another offence, will a background check really help?" he questioned.

His research also found no difference in the number of suicides or mass homicides with increases in regulations for gun owners.

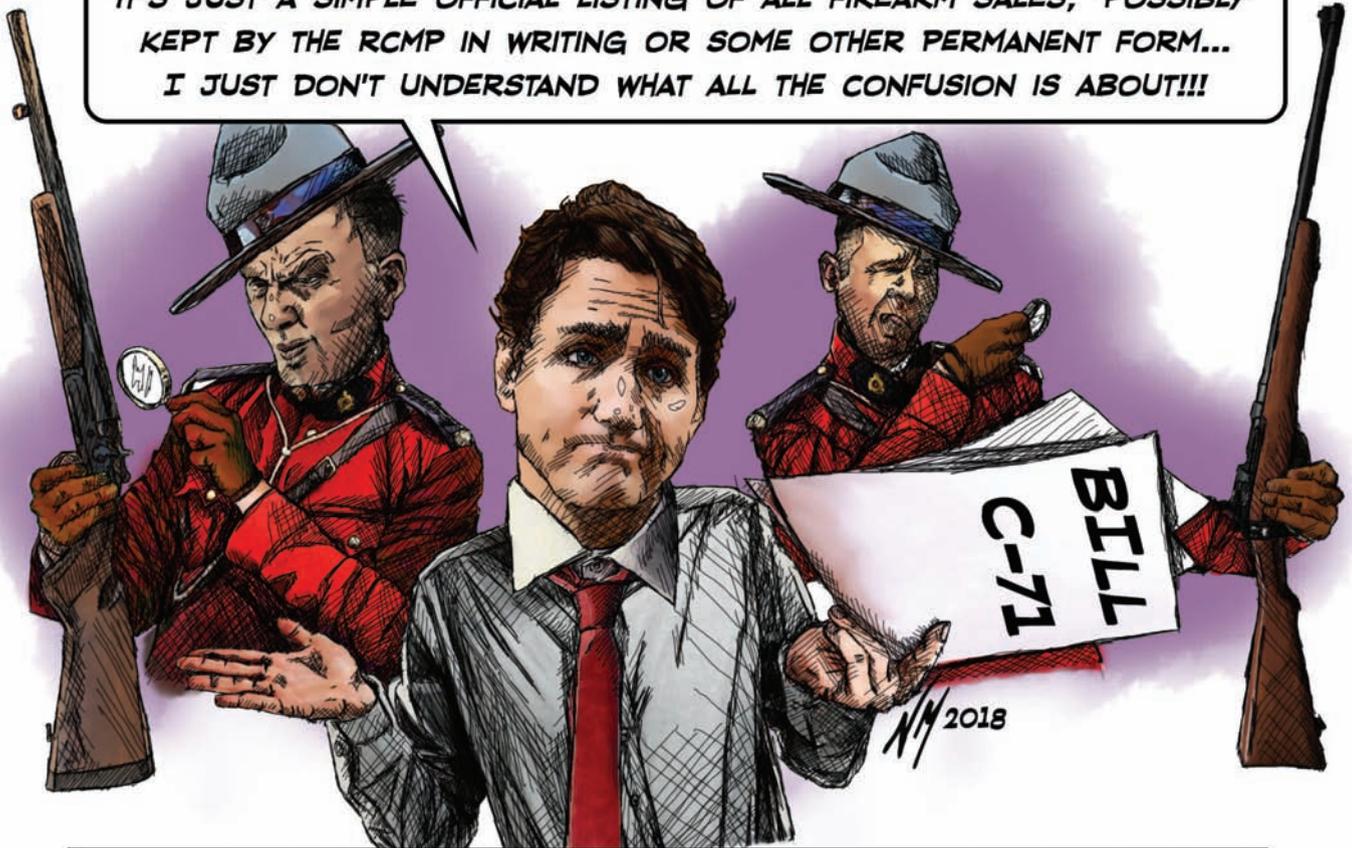
"We spent \$2 billion on registering people with guns with no benefit and

yet it takes six months to get a referral to a psychiatrist in this country," the doctor said.

He believes the factors affecting the decrease in the homicide rate are an aging population, unemployment, the number of police, poverty and immigration rates (higher immigration rates are associated with higher crime).

Langmann pointed to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale's claim that Bill C-71 was needed because of an increase in crime rates, saying this wasn't accurate. He said 2014, the year the government used for its data, was a statistical anomaly as crime rates went up for one year only and then went down. He also pointed to the recent increase in handgun ownership and noted crime went down. "More guns, less crime," he quipped. Langmann added he was disappointed the government or media hadn't done this research before. 🍷

**NO NO NO, IT'S NOT A "REGISTRY",
IT'S JUST A SIMPLE OFFICIAL LISTING OF ALL FIREARM SALES, 'POSSIBLY'
KEPT BY THE RCMP IN WRITING OR SOME OTHER PERMANENT FORM...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THE CONFUSION IS ABOUT!!!**



**REG•IS•TRY
'REJESTRÉ/**

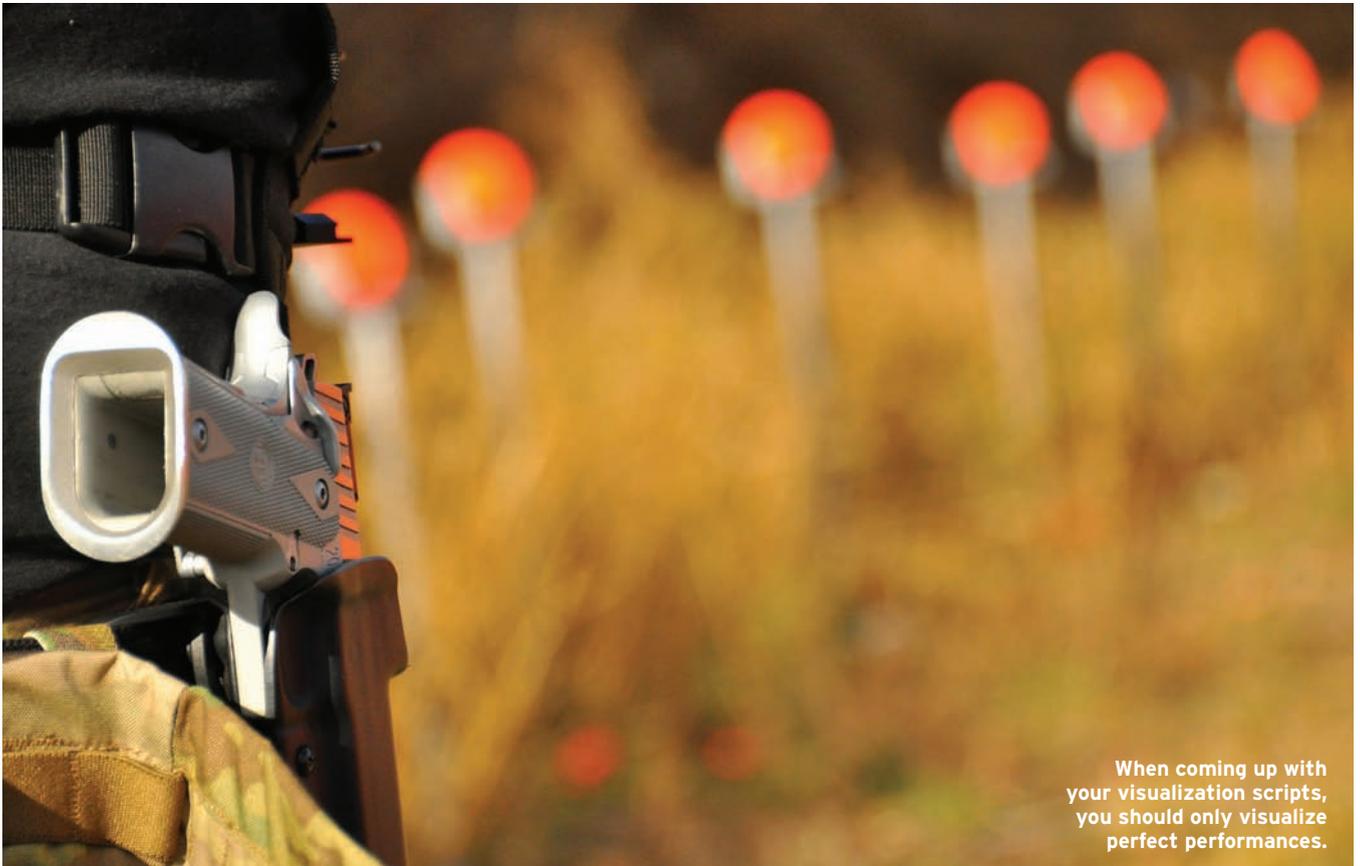
DEFINITION: AN OFFICIAL LISTING OF RECORDS INVOLVING AN ACT OR OCCURRENCE KEPT IN WRITING OR SOME OTHER PERMANENT FORM.



Team NFA

By Patrick Haynes

Making The Most Of Visualization



When coming up with your visualization scripts, you should only visualize perfect performances.

There are many ways to enhance your skills as a shooter, with physical practice winning hands down. But, what if you could improve your skills without heading to the range or pouring lead downrange? What if, by occasionally skipping the range, you could improve your overall training effect? Visualization offers this potential outcome.

When we talk about visualization, you might hear about mental rehearsal or mental practice in the same conversation. For all intents and purposes, the terms are much the same. In most cases, they describe the idea of "deliberate and systematic use of mental imagery in order to rehearse physical actions." (Aidan, Moran: *The Psychology of Concentration in Sport Performers*, 1996). Essentially, the athlete makes a conscious effort to visually rehearse the performance of a known action,

or series of actions, with the goal of improving the actual, physical movements in an upcoming performance. In a sense, it's like watching a video (first or second-person view) of you correctly performing an activity. Unlike reality though, you drive the performance in your head to achieve your desired outcome. While that sounds straightforward, you should know how and when visualization works to get the most from it.

As mentioned earlier, physical practice is king. Going to the range (or even better, different ranges under different conditions) is the best single way to develop and enhance skills. But, did you know that visualization of a known activity does offer a training effect? It does; but, it isn't as good as physical training. So, if you can't get to the range, you can mentally rehearse aspects of your training plan and im-

prove your game. The best combination is a mix of both physical and mental practice. Run through your drills before you hit the range. Know your training plan, determine what activities would help you perform better, then vividly imagine performing those drills. Afterwards, hit the range and do those exact same drills. Compare them to your visualizations. If your reality differed from your visualizations, then you've identified a task you don't know as well as you should.

To elaborate, when you mentally rehearse an activity and have a blind spot, or a vague visual, it usually means that you don't know fully what's actually going on there. You need to physically practice that activity and pay attention to all of the details involved. Then, incorporate that new knowledge into your next mental rehearsal.

As you might guess from the last

Mental practice works well for process-oriented tasks or co-ordinating tasks in time.



paragraph, you can't visualise a task that you haven't physically performed before, at least not with the expectation of improving your skilled performance. You need to perform the task and soak up the process involved (understand each component) and, ideally, how the performance feels. Soak up every aspect of the experience, so you can relive it while visualizing. This enhances the depth of your rehearsal and your skill improvement.

Mental practice works well for process-oriented tasks or co-ordinating tasks in time. It is difficult and possibly not worthwhile to visualize fine motor-control activities. From a shooting perspective, visualizing trigger control may not offer the best improvement opportunity; whereas, visualizing magazine swaps between target transitions would be very valuable. Mental rehearsal helps reinforce process, so when performing in real-time, your decisions become second nature and your actions become more fluid.

When visualizing, performers usually take one of two perspectives: external (second person) or internal (first person). An external view closely resembles watching a video of yourself performing the action. Most people start here, especially when they are new to the sport. They might even use video of themselves or someone they admire to ingrain the images in memory, and then play it back in their heads. As familiarity is developed in the sport and with visualization, imag-

ery tends to switch to an internal view, mimicking what you'd normally see in reality. Additionally, this internal view tends to support the addition of your other senses. While smell and sound can be incorporated, the sensations of touch and body movement offer the most benefit.

Imagine an example of clearing a jam. You could watch a video of someone clearing the jam. You'd get a good understanding of the process involved and probably duplicate it pretty well. Alternatively, you could see and feel yourself performing the action. You'd see yourself checking the ejection port. You'd feel your non-dominant hand moving to the pistol, your hand grasping and pulling back the slide, seeing the casing fly out, then dropping the slide and moving on to your next shot delivery. You learn from both views; but, an internal, first-person view starts to take on a lot of the characteristics of actual, live training.

When coming up with your visualization scripts, you should only visualize perfect performances. Now, don't get the idea that visualization can only prepare you for a perfect day at the range. I've been to a lot of competitions and rarely do I hear athletes telling me that everything went according to plan and there were no surprises. As the saying goes, "Kaka occurs." A solid visualization plan may include distractions and problems. The key is to respond perfectly to these problems. The previous illustration of clearing a jam is a good

example. No competitor wants kaka to occur; but, it does. Your best plan is to think it out and prepare in advance. Visualization is just one more tool in your arsenal.

Lastly, most people use visualization well in advance of their performances to ingrain technique and processes. You can also use it when you arrive at a new range or perform on a stage that you aren't familiar with. If you get the chance beforehand, take advantage of any walk throughs. Understand what your task requirements are. Then, take a few moments and solve the performance problem before you're called to the firing line. How would you approach and engage the targets? How would you respond to any odd environmental issues? When and where would you perform critical actions, like magazine changes? Make all your big decisions beforehand, so when the time comes, your focus is on performance.

As a final note, mental rehearsal isn't a one-and-done sort of activity. The benefits are real, but they don't last forever. Some researchers put the half-life of visualization's benefits at about two weeks. That being said, to get and keep those performance benefits active, you should be visualizing regularly, with breaks between sessions being no more than two weeks apart. Using visualization, you can improve at little or no cost. In combination with live practice, your skills will increase further and faster than range practice alone. 



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Bill C-71: A Fine Example Of Liberal Logic



As is usual with gun-control legislation, Bill C-71 criminalizes conduct that is neither harmful, nor immoral.

A word of caution: I am writing this column in late April 2018. Hence, I speak of the provisions of Bill C-71 as being prospective changes to current firearms legislation. By the time the *CFJ* is published and finds its way to your mailbox, Bill C-71 might have already become law, with or without significant amendments.

PRELUDE

Prior to the 2015 federal election, the Liberal Party promised to "take assault weapons and handguns off our streets." In November 2015, upon his appointment as public safety minister, Ralph Goodale was tasked with "repeal(ing) key elements of Bill C-42 and implement(ing) our commitment to reduce the number of handguns and assault weapons on our streets."

In spite of this, until the winter of 2018, it was pretty much status quo in matters of gun-control legislation at the federal level. As time went on, gun-control advocates became more and more vocal, in view of what they saw as a letdown on the part of the Liberal government. In November 2017, a guns-and-gangs forum was announced for March 2018, seemingly to give the appearance that the government meant to act based upon the advice of experts. While the forum was being held, questionable statistics and tweets regarding the magnitude of Canada's alleged gun problem were released. By the way, such a forum is not a true consultation of all stakeholders. Rather, it is a carefully choreographed event, where most of the participants are carefully chosen; their position is known in advance and is likely aligned with the government's planned policies.

About the same time, the Parkland (Florida) school shooting occurred. Gun control was the flavour of the day. In Canada, the Liberals seized the opportunity to try and convince Canadians that Canada, too, has a "gun problem." On March 20, 2018, Bill C-71 was read at the House of Commons.

Unsurprisingly, it contains no mention of gangs, violence or criminal activities. Rather, it contains a series of amendments to existing gun-control legislation. It was so coldly received by all sides that it may have contributed to the late arrival of spring. Hereafter is an overview of its key aspects.

ENHANCED BACKGROUND CHECKS

Under current legislation, individuals who apply for the issuance or renewal of a gun licence must answer questions about their mental health and criminal/violence history in respect of the previous five years. However, the chief firearms officer (CFO) or his deputy is free to consider events that may have occurred further in the past and they do. Courts of law have repeatedly validated the CFO's practice of taking into account events that occurred more than five years prior to the application.

Bill C-71 eliminates the five-year focus period and will require CFOs to consider (and licence applicants to declare) all prior events. Arguably, a licence could be denied because of events that occurred in the distant past, even though an individual is highly unlikely to relapse.

A LONG-GUN REGISTRY BY ANY OTHER NAME

The Liberals had promised not to re-create the defunct long-gun registry. Bill C-71 mandates that a reference number be obtained from the registrar (of firearms) for every transfer of a non-restricted firearm. It requires merchants to keep records of all transfers, and the registrar must keep records of all applications for reference numbers. Hence, on a transfer-by-transfer basis, the long-gun registry is coming back to life. The Liberals have merely called it "records" instead of "registry."

It will be incumbent upon the transferor to obtain the reference number, after providing the prescribed information. Failure to obtain the reference number may result in criminal prosecution for an unauthorized transfer under s. 101 of the *Criminal Code*. As to what constitutes a "transfer" requiring a reference number, will be a matter of judicial interpretation. Indeed, the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code* feature seemingly inconsistent definitions of "transfer." Clearer language would help.

LICENCE STATUS VERIFICATION

Showing a valid PAL will no longer be

sufficient when purchasing a non-restricted firearm. Indeed, as part of the process of obtaining a reference number, the transferor of a non-restricted firearm will be required to inquire with the registrar as to the validity of the transferee's licence. The registrar will confirm whether the transferee holds a valid licence and is "still eligible" to hold said licence. How exactly this will be applied is anyone's guess. It could ultimately mean the ability to trigger a licence review process, and/or to revisit the conditions that must be met to hold a licence (i.e. spousal consent, etc.) upon each transfer. Needless to say, this could either delay and/or discourage transactions.

HANDGUNS, ASSAULT RIFLES & OUR STREETS

According to Liberal logic (please forgive the oxymoron), allowing RPAL holders to transport restricted firearms to the gunsmith, to a gun show, to an appraiser or a port of exit, by the reasonably most direct route and in a locked case, meant that "handguns and assault weapons" were out on the street. Bill C-71 repeals most of the changes made to ATT rules by the Conservatives' Bill C-42 (the *Common Sense Firearms Licensing Act*). Indeed, the only ATTs that survive as conditions attached to a licence are those pertaining to ranges within the province of residence of the licensee, and transportation of a newly acquired firearm to its usual storage location. In all other instances, an old-fashioned paper STATT will have to be obtained.

THE RISE OF THE POLICE STATE

In Canada, the RCMP is charged with classification of firearms. As a non-legislative body, it is supposed to apply the existing legislated rules, not make them as it goes. However, history has shown that the RCMP sometimes takes liberties with the classification criteria; the 2014-2015 Swiss Arms/CZ-858 fiasco being a case in point. Bill C-42 had empowered the government to overturn an RCMP decision classifying a firearm to a more restrictive class. Bill C-71 takes that power away from the government, thus granting final say to the RCMP. The change is supposedly predicated upon the fact that the RCMP are the experts. If that is the case, why is the government still free to prescribe (by way of order-in-council) that a firearm belongs to a more restrictive class on pure whim. It must be "Liberal logic."

NEW PROHIBITED FIREARMS CLASSES

In late 2014, early 2015, multiple gun owners found the rifles they had legally purchased as either restricted or non-restricted firearms were now considered by the RCMP as prohibited, and told to surrender them to police, under threat of criminal prosecution. A temporary amnesty ensued, and the Conservatives then enacted Bill C-42, which allowed the government to overturn an RCMP decision by way of OIC, based upon advice from an advisory panel. An OIC reversing the RCMP decision was indeed passed shortly afterwards. Bill C-71 purports to undo all of that. Those rifles become prohibited again, with one caveat: current owners will be grandfathered to keep their current rifles and use them for target shooting. Two new classes of prohibited firearms are thus created: 12(11) and 12(14).

Other classes of prohibited firearms are also likely on the horizon. Indeed, a power to grandfather new classes of prohibited firearms has been granted to the government, which already had the power to prescribe firearms or classes of firearms as prohibited. It would be no surprise if currently restricted AR-15s and other black rifles (what the antis like to call assault rifles) were soon reclassified as prohibited firearms, and simultaneously grandfathered in order to appease current owners.

CONFISCATION & DESTRUCTION OF FIREARMS

Going forward, whenever a firearms prohibition order is issued against an individual, it will entail, as a general rule, the confiscation (without compensation) and destruction of all firearms possessed by the individual concerned. Bill C-71 grants courts discretion to order otherwise. However, no criteria are defined.

As a reminder, prohibition orders may be issued in the absence of any wrongdoing (such as for mental health issues) or for reasons unrelated to the criminal use or possession of firearms. The potential for abuse or injustice is immense.

To conclude, Bill C-71 does not address or purport to prevent the illegal use of firearms in any way whatsoever. On the contrary, it allocates already scarce resources to additional bureaucracy and, as is usual with gun-control legislation, it criminalizes conduct that is neither harmful, nor immoral. Another fine example of Liberal logic! 



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Le Projet de loi C-71 ou la logique libérale à son meilleur



Comme il est d'usage, en matière de contrôle des armes à feu, le Projet de loi C-71 criminalise des comportements qui ne sont ni nuisibles, ni immoraux.

Avis au lecteur: J'écris cette chronique à la fin avril 2018. Je traite donc des dispositions du projet de loi C-71 comme étant des changements éventuels à la législation sur les armes à feu. D'ici à ce que le CFJ soit publié et vous parvienne, il se peut que le projet de loi C-71 ait acquis force de loi, avec ou sans amendements majeurs.

SIGNES AVANT-COUREURS

Avant l'élection fédérale de 2015, le Parti libéral avait promis de retirer les

armes d'assaut et les armes de poing de nos rues. En Novembre 2015, lors de sa nomination comme ministre de la sécurité publique, Ralph Goodale fut mandaté afin d'agir pour éliminer les armes à feu et les armes d'assaut de nos rues (...), y compris en abrogeant certains éléments du projet de loi C-42.

Malgré ce programme, jusqu'à l'hiver 2018, les Libéraux se sont essentiellement abstenus de faire des changements significatifs aux lois visant à contrôler les armes à feu. Les militants

du contrôle des armes à feu ne se gênent pas pour le leur reprocher et manifester leur impatience à cet égard. En Novembre 2017, un forum portant sur les armes à feu, la violence et les gangs criminalisés fut convoqué pour mars 2018, vraisemblablement pour donner l'apparence d'une consultation. Pendant que le forum se déroulait, des statistiques douteuses et tweets alarmistes furent publiés. Il y a lieu de noter que ce genre d'exercice est rarement une véritable consultation des parties intéressées. Il s'agit plutôt d'un événement chorégraphié, où la plupart des participants sont choisis pour leurs opinions, lesquelles concordent généralement avec les politiques que le gouvernement prévoit adopter.

De façon contemporaine, une tuerie eut lieu dans une école à Parkland en Floride. Le contrôle des armes à feu devint, plus que jamais, au goût du jour. Au Canada, le gouvernement en profita pour tenter de convaincre les canadiens que le Canada a également un problème d'armes à feu. Le 20 mars 2018, le Projet de loi C-71 fut déposé en première lecture à la Chambre des communes. Sans surprises, le projet de loi ne fait aucunement mention des gangs, de la violence ou des utilisations criminelles des armes à feu. Il contient plutôt une série d'amendements à la législation existante en matière de contrôle des armes à feu. Le projet de loi fut si froidement reçu par les parties intéressées de tout acabit qu'il a probablement contribué à l'arrivée tardive du printemps. J'en discute ci-après les principaux aspects.

VÉRIFICATION DES ANTÉCÉDENTS

Sous la loi actuelle, un demandeur de permis ou une personne voulant le renouveler doit faire certaines déclarations relatives à sa santé mentale, et son historique de violence pour les cinq années précédant la demande. Toutefois, les Contrôleurs des armes à feu et leurs préposés sont habilités à effectuer des vérifications allant au delà de la période de cinq ans. Les tribunaux

ont d'ailleurs avalisé cette pratique.

Le projet de loi C-71 étend les vérifications (et partant les déclarations obligatoires) à la vie entière du demandeur de permis. On peut concevoir que cette nouvelle règle pourrait entraîner le refus d'un permis (ou son renouvellement) sur la foi d'événements qui se sont produits dans un passé lointain, bien qu'une récidive soit hautement improbable.

SI ON L'APPELLE AUTREMENT, EST-CE UN REGISTRE DES ARMES D'ÉPAULE?

Les Libéraux avaient promis de ne pas réinstaurer le registre des armes d'épaule. Pourtant, le projet de loi C-71 requiert que lors de toute cession d'une arme à feu sans restriction, le cédant obtienne un numéro de référence du Directeur de l'enregistrement (des armes à feu). Il requiert les commerçants de garder des registres de ventes, et le Directeur de l'enregistrement doit conserver des données concernant toutes les demandes de numéros de référence, ainsi que les raisons ayant entraîné un refus, le cas échéant. Ainsi, on recrée un registre des armes d'épaule, une cession à la fois. On l'a simplement nommé autrement.

Le cédant devra demander le numéro de référence, après avoir fourni l'information prescrite (par règlement). Le défaut d'obtenir le numéro de référence préalablement à la cession constituera une cession non autorisée, passible de poursuites en vertu du Code criminel (Art.101). Quant à savoir ce qui constitue une cession requérant l'obtention d'un numéro de référence, la Loi sur les armes à feu et le Code criminel offrent des définitions conflictuelles. Cela donnera vraisemblablement lieu à un certain flottement judiciaire. Un peu plus de clarté et de rigueur ne nuiraient point.

VÉRIFICATION DU PERMIS DU CESSIONNAIRE

Exhiber un permis (PAF) valide lors d'une cession d'arme à feu sans restrictions ne sera plus suffisamment. En effet, le cédant devra vérifier auprès du Directeur de l'enregistrement si le cessionnaire (acheteur) est titulaire d'un permis et y est toujours admissible. La signification de ce dernier critère est énigmatique. Cela pourrait ultimement signifier que le Directeur de l'enregistrement aura la faculté d'initier une révision du permis, ou de revoir les conditions sous-jacentes à l'émission d'un permis lors de chaque transaction.

Il va sans dire que cela entraînera vraisemblablement des délais ou pourrait compromettre des transactions.

CES ARMES DE POING ET ARMES D'ASSAUT QUI COURENT LES RUES

Selon la logique libérale (je m'excuse de l'oxymoron) permettre aux détenteurs de permis d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte de se rendre chez l'armurier, à un bazar d'armes; à feu, chez un évaluateur ou à un poste frontière avec leurs armes à feu (verrouillées et dans un coffret, il va sans dire), équivaut à mettre ces armes à feu en circulation, sur la rue. Le projet de loi C-71 abroge la plupart des modifications apportées au régime des autorisations de transport par la loi C-42 du précédent gouvernement conservateur. En effet, de toutes les catégories d'autorisations de transport émises automatiquement en tant que conditions rattachées à un permis, seules celles permettant d'aller et venir du champ de tir, et de ramener chez soi une arme à feu nouvellement acquise demeurent. Dans tous les autres cas, on revient au régime antérieur, soit les autorisations de transport à la pièce sur support papier.

L'ÉMERGENCE D'UN ÉTAT POLICIER

Au Canada, la responsabilité de déterminer la classe à laquelle appartient une arme à feu est dévolue à la GRC. Ses décisions sont consignées dans un fichier de référence connu sous l'acronyme FRT (Firearms Reference Table). N'ayant pas de pouvoir de légiférer, la GRC est censée appliquer les critères établis par la législation, et non pas les créer. L'histoire démontre toutefois qu'il y a eu certains errements par le passé; le fiasco des carabines CZ et Swissarms, survenu à la fin de 2014, en étant un exemple patent. La loi C-42 avait donné au gouvernement le pouvoir de passer outre à une décision de la GRC. Le projet de loi C-71 lui retire ce pouvoir. La GRC aura dorénavant le dernier mot en matière de classification d'armes à feu. On justifie ce changement en invoquant l'expertise de la GRC en la matière. Pourtant, le gouvernement se garde le pouvoir de classer une arme à feu dans une catégorie plus restrictive, sans devoir justifier sa décision sur la base de critères quelconques. Voilà un bel exemple de logique libérale!

NOUVELLES CATÉGORIES D'ARMES À FEU PROHIBÉES

Vers la fin 2014, de nombreux

propriétaires d'armes à feu apprenaient que suite à une décision de la GRC, leurs carabines Swissarms et/ou CZ-858 étaient désormais considérées comme des armes à feu prohibées. On leur demandait de les remettre à la police, sous peine de poursuites criminelles. Une amnistie temporaire s'ensuivit. Au final, la Loi C-42 donna au gouvernement le pouvoir de renverser une décision de la GRC, sur la foi d'avis d'un comité d'experts. Un arrêté en conseil fut adopté peu après, afin de régulariser la situation. Le projet de loi C-71 renverse la situation, avec une nuance. Ces armes à feu redeviennent prohibées, mais leurs propriétaires se voient reconnaître des droits acquis, mais ne pourront utiliser ces carabines que pour le tir à la cible. Deux nouvelles catégories d'armes à feu prohibées sont créées: 12(11) et 12(14).

D'autres catégories d'armes à feu prohibées se pointent à l'horizon. En effet, on donne au gouvernement le pouvoir d'accorder des droits acquis aux détenteurs de catégories d'armes à feu prohibées prescrites. Ce serait sans surprise que l'on apprendrait que le gouvernement a passé un arrêté en conseil qui classerait les AR-15 et autres soit disant armes d'assaut comme armes à feu prohibées. Ce pouvoir existe déjà dans la loi.

CONFISCATION ET DESTRUCTION

Dorénavant, lors de l'émission d'une ordonnance d'interdiction d'armes à feu, les armes en possession de la personne visée seront automatiquement confisquées et détruites, sauf ordonnance contraire de la cour. Les critères de cette exception restent à définir.

Je rappelle que les ordonnances d'interdiction sont parfois émises à l'égard d'individus qui n'ont rien fait de mal, comme par exemple, dans certains cas de maladie mentale, ou dans des cas où il n'y a pas eu d'utilisation criminelle d'une arme à feu. Le potentiel que cela mène à des abus est flagrant.

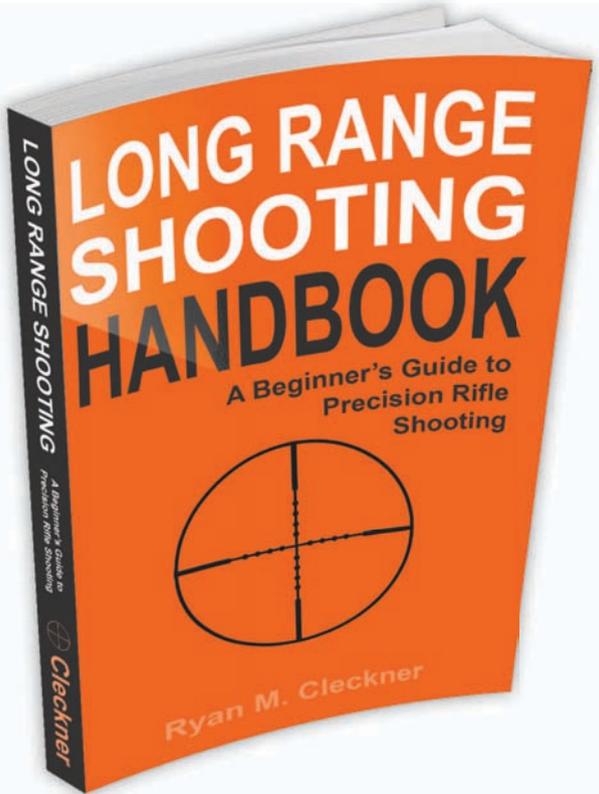
En conclusion, le Projet de loi C-71 ne traite en aucune façon de l'usage criminel des armes à feu et ne propose aucun moyen pour s'y attaquer. Au contraire, il aura pour conséquence d'allouer des ressources déjà insuffisantes à des mesures bureaucratiques additionnelles et comme c'est habituellement le cas en matière de contrôle des armes à feu, il criminalise des comportements qui ne sont ni nuisibles, ni immoraux. Bref, c'est un excellent exemple de logique libérale. 



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Long Range Shooting Handbook: A Beginner's Guide To Precision Rifle Shooting



Author Ryan Cleckner reports he grew up loving hunting, shooting and the great outdoor spaces of Arizona. After graduating from high school, he pursued a military career which involved sniper training, deployment to Afghanistan as a sniper and later as a sniper team leader. Shooting long distance under challenging conditions was, therefore, a career requirement.

Readers will note *Long Range Shooting Handbook* is written in a format similar to most college reference textbooks. Cleckner advises that this handbook should first be read cover to cover. Then, it should always be readily available during training and referred to when needed.

Firearm safety is the number one concern of all firearm instructors and Cleckner stresses four basic rules shooters should follow. These rules can never be overstated or shared too often.

- **Rule 1:** Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
- **Rule 2:** Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to shoot.
- **Rule 3:** Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- **Rule 4:** Be sure of your target, what is around it, in front of it and behind it.

Long Range Shooting Handbook is presented in three sections, which include equipment, fundamentals and application.

The need for quality equipment is summed up in the author's statement, "An expert long-range shooter can shoot up to the performance capability of a rifle."

Almost 100 pages are devoted to understanding factors which may affect consistent accuracy. These include ammunition components, rifle features, aiming systems and accessories.

Fundamentals of marksmanship covers shooting with both iron sights and scopes. The importance of trigger control and a stable shooting position are just two of the factors stressed in this section. External and environmental factors affecting accuracy are explained in exacting detail, often requiring full concentration to understand the concepts.

Application takes the reader, who has both quality equipment and an understanding of the fundamental skills, to the shooting stage. Over 100 pages provide advice on everything from properly mounting your scope to cleaning your firearm.

Cleckner has done a fantastic job of

sharing the knowledge accumulated through his extensive experience as a shooter, sniper and firearms instructor. The student who takes the time to fully understand the concepts being taught throughout *Long Range Shooting Handbook*, combined with regular practice at the range, will be rewarded with tighter groups. And those utilizing this book to its fullest will soon own a copy which is extensively highlighted and well worn from cover to cover.

An appendix includes sample ballistic tables for several common calibres, log book and sample targets which may be downloaded on the book's website. The author welcomes comments, advice and even criticism of his book or his teaching strategies. These may be left on his website, which also provides information to supplement the book's contents. As a firearms instructor, Cleckner acknowledges he learns from every course he teaches, and this book is very much a shooting course.

Long Range Shooting Handbook would be a great addition to your shooting kit or a gift for that special young shooter. It is sold primarily through Amazon and retails at a reasonable price of \$24.95 US (Kindle Edition \$9.99). Cleckner generously donates 25 per cent of the proceeds of this book to two military charities. 

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The 2018 AGM of Canada's National Firearms Association was held on May 11 & 12, 2018, in Hamilton, Ont.

The first day was devoted to a meeting of the Board of Directors, followed by a meet-and-greet in the evening. The next day, all the necessary business required to be done by a non-profit organization was successfully completed. Members also heard from a number of speakers regarding Bill C-71 and other issues of concern to firearm owners. That evening was devoted to a great meal, more speakers and the distribution of a table loaded with door prizes and swag.

Many thanks to the organizations and individuals who contributed to the abundance of merchandise distributed that evening. They included:

Dillon Precision
 Matador Arms
 Silverdale
 O'Dell Engineering
 Eley Canada
 Modular Driven Technologies

Brownell's
 Vortex Canada
 Urban Tactical
 Bill Rantz
 TDSA Canada

Fully Committed On All Fronts

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION



NO COMPROMISE.