

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

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CANADIAN **FIREARMS JOURNAL**

September/October 2018



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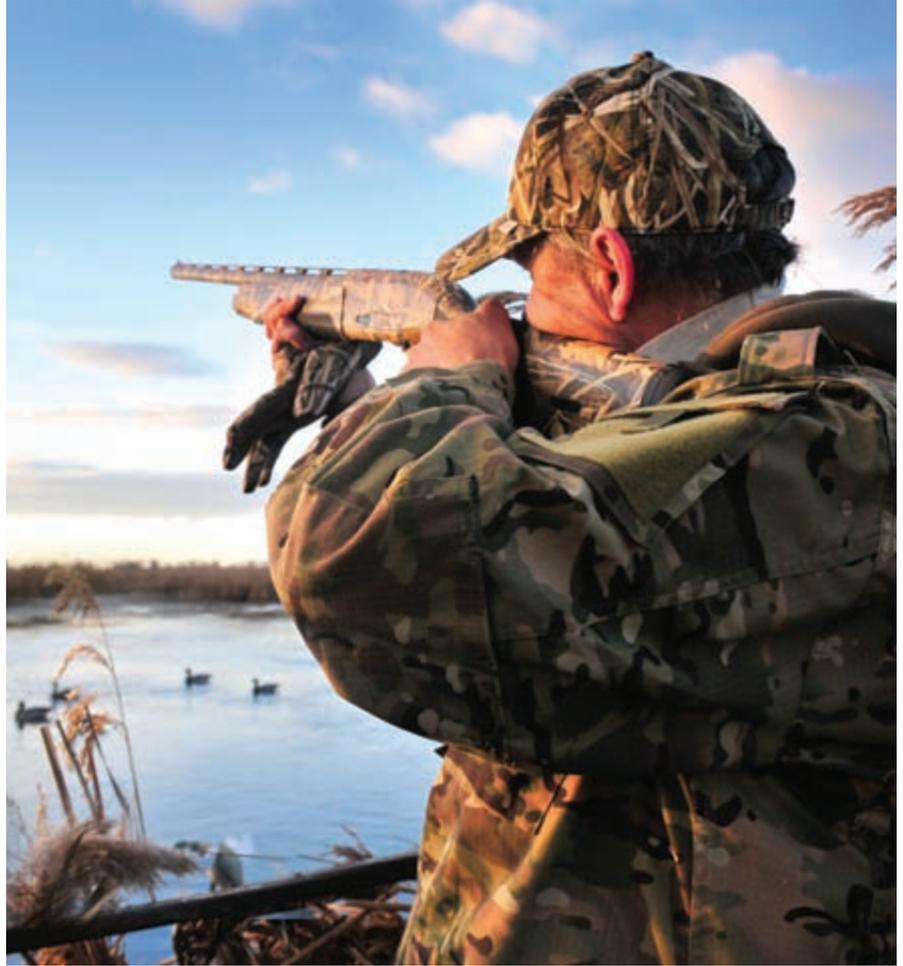
Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all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

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On the Cover

Long-time *CFJ* contributor Jeff Helsdon grabbed this image of a waterfowl hunter at Long Point, Ont. With the area being one of the most important staging areas for migratory waterfowl in eastern North America, the wetlands of Lake Erie's Long Point have a long heritage as a waterfowling hotspot. Besides the private hunt clubs that preserved the marshes, there are public hunting opportunities available through the Long Point Waterfowl Unit. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Forty Years Of Hunting Seasons

It's September and fall is in the air. Which, of course, means hunting season to many Canadian gun-owners. As usual, this issue of the *CFJ* follows that theme and is focused on the hunting activities many of us engage in.

We're fortunate to have a great selection of hunting and fishing magazines in Canada, and while they all do a wonderful job of telling hunting tales and teaching how to hunt, the technical information about firearms and ammunition they can deliver is limited. That, I believe, is one of the gaps the *CFJ* fills. We are a gun magazine and as such, you won't find strategies for laying out a decoy spread or for outsmarting a wise, old whitetail here. Our role is to bring you some of the more technical information about the tools used in the hunt.

The challenge for me is balancing that "fun stuff" with the political information you need to know. Because if we don't stay politically active now, future generations won't have the tools to continue activities like hunting. This is a role the *CFJ* has now had for 40 years. This issue of the magazine marks the completion of 40 years of the NFA producing a regular publication for its members. In its infancy, the magazine was called *The NFA Journal*. Then, sometime later, it was changed to *Point Blank*, and then eventually to *The Canadian Firearms Journal*. On the inside back cover of this issue, you'll see a reproduction of that first cover, and some other early covers.

Of course, those early days were pre-Internet, and mail was the primary method of circulating information among NFA members. Contributors to

the magazine back then included Dave Tomlinson, Clive Law and R.A. Laycock. Gary Kangas is on that list too, and since he's still a regular contributor, I'm pretty sure he can lay claim to being the "last man standing." Congratulations, Gary!

With 40 years of history behind us, we can look confidently to the future, knowing that the magazine is built on a solid foundation. But we also know that we can't live in the past. Change is the only constant, and nowhere is that truer than in how information is shared. Publishing is being revolutionized in the digital age, and although many have predicted the death of print, it's just not happening. So, rest assured that the *CFJ* is going into the future boldly and that we'll be here for a long time to come. This is your magazine. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

The Fight Is International & Domestic

It's been a busy few months: a successful AGM in Hamilton, two sets of productive meetings with MPs, senators and staffers in Ottawa, and a strong effort to fight off the globalist gun grabbers at the UN.

The Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons was all about expanding international gun-control efforts to require marking of all aspects of firearms and parts and to include ammunition in the PoA. It was clear from the outset that the key focus was to move forward regardless of the consensus requirement of the conference. The US and Israel stood firm in support of not expanding the scope, and both the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) and NFA spoke very clearly against further expanding the PoA and the International Tracing Instrument. Both us and our colleagues were active in seeking support from the delegations, and in supporting the strong voice of the US delegation.

We didn't have a lot of friends in the room. The Canadian presentation was embarrassing and amounted to a ramble on the need to include gender references and participation in the PoA. Most of the time there was no one present from the Canadian delegation. This was quite a change from the situation under our previous government when Canada was the voice of reason and sense, and the Americans were operating under a much less friendly mandate. That situation is now reversed.

WFSA and NFA were the only pro-firearm rights groups to speak, but our message was hard hitting and effective. I was able to call out the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs for being largely anti-gun, and I even suggested that they change their hiring policies. That message generated an angry response from the head of

the UN Disarmament Branch, which he copied to Global Affairs Canada. I offered to meet with him to discuss our concerns, but he wasn't interested. Make no mistake, the UN as an entity is not our friend. Even so, it is critical that we continue to challenge globalist efforts, as these translate into domestic gun control agendas. We have seen that many times in Canada. NFA will be attending the upcoming conference on the *Arms Trade Treaty* to continue

"There are some interesting strategies developing as we head into an election year in 2019. Trudeau has some choices to make, including perhaps calling a snap election in the fall. The Liberals appear to be more prepared for that than any other party, and if so, all of us will need to scramble to ensure pro-firearm rights candidates are nominated and elected."

the offensive against efforts to expand the scope of global gun control.

On the domestic front, we have been very successful in our strategic efforts to help delay and perhaps even kill Bill C-71. At time of writing, parliament has adjourned for the summer and that bill has not yet passed third reading in Commons. It will still have to pass the senate, and then get Royal

assent. We have had extensive discussions with the CPC senate on further strategies to deal with C-71, should it be returned in the fall. The CPC is interested in and grateful for our help, and there appears to be some understanding of the need for significant action on our issues.

There are some interesting strategies developing as we head into an election year in 2019. Trudeau has some choices to make, including perhaps calling a snap election in the fall. The Liberals appear to be more prepared for that than any other party, and if so, all of us will need to scramble to ensure pro-firearm rights candidates are nominated and elected. Just because someone wants to run as a Conservative does not mean that they are on our side, so get involved and make sure that your local EDA is choosing good people. Another option for Trudeau is to prorogue parliament, shuffle his cabinet, and begin a new session of parliament with a pre-election budget and throne speech. This would likely mean bills on the order paper, such as C-71, would return and get fast-tracked through Commons and then off to senate. We are ready for that possibility.

Again, you still need to be working on getting good candidates elected, and on letting us know who the pro-firearms rights nominees are in your area. This is down-in-the-dirt firearms politics, and we have no intention of losing. We have an opportunity here to make a difference, so let's do the work to make it happen.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to some trigger time this summer and hunting for moose this fall. I hope that your hunting season is safe and enjoyable, and that you are taking the time to foster more interest in all the shooting sports. And as always, please sign up a friend as a member – we need all the help we can get. 🍀

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Une lutte sur deux fronts: L'International et le domestique.

Nous avons été bien occupés ces derniers mois. La Réunion Générale Annuelle à Hamilton fût un succès, nous avons eu deux ensembles de réunions productives avec des Députés, des Sénateurs et des employés du Gouvernement à Ottawa. De plus, nous avons fourni un effort vigoureux pour repousser les Globalistes de l'ONU qui veulent confisquer les armes de de tous les citoyens.

La Troisième Conférence de Révision de l'ONU sur le Programme d'Action sur les armes légères et de petit calibre fût un exercice pour tenter d'augmenter le contrôle des armes en exigeant qu'on marque tous les aspects des armes à feu, leurs pièces et d'y inclure le marquage des munitions. Il était évident que la majorité des membres voulaient atteindre ces objectifs sans tenir compte de la règle qui dicte qu'un consensus doit exister pour ce faire. Les États-Unis et Israël sont restés fermes pour ne pas augmenter les contrôles actuels. Le World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) et l'ACAF ont aussi exprimés leur désaccord envers le Programme d'Action et leur instrument de traçage international (International Tracing Instrument). Nous et nos collègues ont été très occupés pour essayer d'obtenir l'appui des Délégations et que tous appuient la voix robuste de la Délégation Américaine.

Nous n'avions pas beaucoup d'amis dans cette pièce. La présentation Canadienne nous a fait honte et peux se résumer en un délire sur la nécessité d'inclure des enjeux sur les genres dans le Programme d'Action. Quel contraste dramatique par rapport au discours sensé de notre Gouvernement précédent, qui à l'époque travaillait côte à côte avec un Gouvernement Américain dont le mandat était plutôt négatif vis à vis notre cause. Cette situation est maintenant complètement renversée.

La WFSA et l'ACAF furent les seuls groupes militant pour les droits sur

les armes à feu à prendre la parole, mais notre message fût percutant et efficace. J'ai eu l'occasion de dénoncer le Bureau des affaires sur le désarmement de l'ONU d'être en grande partie anti-armes et leur a même suggérer de changer leurs politiques d'embauche. Cette dénonciation a tellement choqué le Chef du Bureau de Désarmement de l'ONU qu'il en a envoyé une copie au bureau des Affaires Mondiales Canada. J'ai tenté de le rencontrer pour discuter de nos inquiétudes mais il n'était pas intéressé.

Il ne faut pas se leurrer, en tant qu'entité l'ONU n'est pas notre amie. Mais quand même, il est essentiel de continuer d'opposer les forces de globalisation puisqu'elles visent et réussissent à s'immiscer dans le contrôle des armes domestiques. Nous en avons été témoins plusieurs fois ici au Canada. L'ACAF assistera prochainement à la Conférence du Traité sur le commerce des armes pour continuer de repousser les efforts de l'ONU qui veut étendre la portée mondiale du contrôle des armes.

Nos efforts stratégiques sur le plan domestique ont eu du succès pour aider à ralentir et possiblement détruire le Projet de Loi C-71. Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, le Parlement est ajourné pour l'été et ce Projet de Loi n'a pas passé sa troisième lecture. Il doit ensuite être étudié par le Sénat et à la fin recevoir la Sanction Royale. Nous avons eu de nombreuses discussions avec des membres du Parti Conservateur du Canada (PCC) au Sénat à propos de stratégies à adopter vis à vis C-71 si ce Projet de Loi refait surface à l'automne. Le PCC est reconnaissant et intéressé par notre aide et il semble que nous ayons un terrain d'entente sur la nécessité de prendre des actions importantes à propos de nos enjeux.

Plusieurs stratégies intéressantes pointent à l'horizon à la veille de l'élection de 2019. Trudeau a plusieurs choix devant lui incluant le déclenchement

d'élections hâtives cet automne. Les Libéraux semblent être le parti le mieux préparé pour ce genre de scénario. S'ils le font, nous devons nous précipiter pour trouver des candidats qui sont sensibles aux droits des citoyens en regard des armes à feu. Le fait que quelqu'un veuille se présenter comme candidat Conservateur ne signifie pas qu'il soit sympathique à notre cause. Donc, impliquez vous et assurez vous que votre association de circonscription choisisse les bonnes personnes. Trudeau pourrait aussi choisir de proroger le Parlement, de changer la composition de son Cabinet et de commencer une nouvelle session du Parlement avec un budget préélectoral et un discours du Trône. Si tel est le cas, les Projets de Loi tels que C-71 seraient remis à l'agenda et passeraient rapidement aux Communes et au Sénat. Nous sommes prêts pour cette éventualité.

Vous devrez quand même travailler fort pour élire de bons candidats et nous aviser quels sont ceux qui sont sympathiques à notre cause dans vos régions. Nous allons faire face à une lutte sale par rapport aux politiques sur les armes à feu et nous n'avons aucune intention de la perdre. Nous avons la chance de faire une différence, prenons la et agissons pour que ce soit un succès.

Sur une note personnelle, j'ai hâte de tirer cet été et d'aller à la chasse à l'orignal cet automne. Souhaitant que votre saison de chasse soit plaisante et sécuritaire, n'oubliez pas de susciter de l'intérêt pour tous les sports de tir et comme toujours recrutez le plus de nouveaux membres possible car nous avons besoin de toute l'aide que nous pouvons obtenir. 🍗





Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

I'm Taking This One Personally, Bob



The law does not favour firearms owners in Canada.

The controversy over Bill C-71 has been hot and heavy as the government tries to justify their latest attempt to separate Canadians from their rights and property. Despite the bromides and cherry-picked stats from the government and the political police, Canadians aren't buying Liberal justifications for the legislation. This is payback for their supporters in the civil disarmament lobby, nothing more.

What is somewhat remarkable is some of the rhetoric used by Liberals to justify their new measures. Liberal MP for Oakville North Ontario, Pam Damoff, said, "All firearms owners are law abiding until they are not." That statement is right out of the Coalition for Gun Control playbook. I guess we know which team Pam Damoff plays for.

Liberal MP for Kenora Ontario, Robert

Nault, said, "There are a lot of mental issues with people who have firearms." Now stop there and think about that.

If you and Robert Nault were in a room, he'd probably lean over, pat you on the wrist, and say, "Well, you know there are a lot of people out there who have problems. Maybe not you, but someone else and we need strong laws to prevent them from getting firearms and to take away the ones they have and make sure they get the help they need to protect the public. Isn't that reasonable? And if you were having some problems, you'd want your family and the police to step in and make sure you got the help you needed, right?" But Nault's statement definitely betrays the classic Liberal mindset behind their contempt for the Canadian right and tradition of firearms

ownership.

I take calls on a daily basis from people who have technical questions about firearms laws and want to be in compliance with those confusing, convoluted, stupid and crazy requirements. But a big part of my job with the NFA is also assisting people who have had their guns taken and have been charged under the *Firearms Act*. As you likely know, some people say or do dumb things that result in complaints to the police and the inevitable confiscation of their firearms, either short term or permanently.

Often it goes like this: A guy who loses his job, gets drunk and muses to his wife, "Maybe I should just end it all." She tells her friend, who phones the police, who show up and confiscate his firearms. Then the chief firearms officer

revokes his firearms license because he's "suicidal."

Now, he'll sober up the next day and get back on his feet, but how does that guy fight back? He can't. He cannot afford a lawyer to get his license and guns back, and he's got bigger problems to face, like earning a living and paying bills. All too often he doesn't have the time or money to go to court to fight a license revocation, and his rights and property are gone.

This has been going on for a long time, since the advent of the *Firearms Act* back in 1995. Bill C-71 formalizes it and makes it worse. Get treated for depression, lose your guns. Have a problem with alcohol or drugs because of what you saw in Afghanistan, lose your guns. Get divorced and have a hostile ex-spouse who wishes to do you personal harm, lose your guns. Have words with your neighbour over the property line, lose your guns. Be anything other than what the bureaucrats see as the stereotypical perfect Canadian, lose your guns.

I need to add that other people commit real crimes. They're called criminals. If you are out on the streets at 3 a.m. and get stopped by police, who

find a completely illegal and smuggled pistol you were going to use to knock off the guy who is moving in on your fentanyl distribution network, I can't help you. I won't help you.

But no one can guarantee that being a perfect Canadian will prevent you from losing your guns, as I have seen too many cases go sideways when a gun-hating Crown prosecutor, backed up by predatory firearms bureaucrats looking to manufacture statistics to justify their firearms program, decides to make someone a target. The truth isn't going to get in their way, and as far as they are concerned you don't have any rights. To them, that's an American abstract idea that doesn't exist in Canada. They have all the taxpayer's dollars they need, including your own, to prosecute you and confiscate your property. What do you have?

The *Firearms Act* seeks to victimize you using your own circumstances, and under Bill C-71 its going to be about five times easier to run afoul of laws and regulations that will result in the confiscation of your rights and property. The best way to fight crime? Treat everyone like a criminal. How do you fight insanity? Treat everyone like a lunatic. Rights

and property be damned.

The 1995 *Firearms Act* already does it, but Bill C-71 is going to further prevent those Canadians who have challenges from getting the help they need. When the decision comes down to either making the choice to seek help or lose your rights and property, that is going to be a difficult decision to make. It shouldn't be.

I've thought long and hard about what Robert Nault said. I've tried to think about it reasonably, objectively, and I've even tried to convince myself to give him a pass for saying something dumb. After all, sometimes politicians say dumb things. But what I inevitably come back to is the attitude this statement stems from. I've often said in these columns that you and I are criminals and lunatics in the eyes of the law, and certainly in the eyes of the government. Robert Nault has done nothing more than confirm that. Never mind Pam Damoff parroting the talking points of the gun-control lobby, Robert Nault's statement is much more offensive, and dangerous.

I'm taking this one personally, Robert Nault.

You should, too. 

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

The Hunting Experience



Gary's Cooley Model 84 20-gauge and Cooley Model 75 .22 rimfire.

Hunting is primal. The hunting experience is a part of our Canadian culture going back to the dawn of our land's history with First Nations and Inuit. Hunting has an allure that is not easily explained, and having interviewed many avid hunters, the thread that connects all hunters is difficult to define. But there is a connection, as the following experiences indicate.

Hunting is an integral component of my family's personal story. For me, it begins some 71 years ago when my Dad taught me and my brother Ron how to shoot guns safely. This included being aware of muzzle direction, shooting only when you could identify your target and having a sufficient back stop. My Dad grew up on a homestead and at 10 years of age acquired a .22-calibre, dropping-block, single-shot rifle which he used to feed the family by hunting rabbits and other small game. Grandpa Kangas had a 10-gauge shotgun for harvesting water birds. My Dad's brother, being my favourite uncle, was an avid bird hunter and big-game harvester and his hunting tools were a .22 rimfire rifle, Mauser bolt-action, single-shot 12-gauge shot-

gun and a Savage rotary magazine lever gun in 303 Savage.

My uncle would take us water bird hunting in the muskeg and slough country of west-central Alberta, sometimes a grueling adventure. However, Dad enjoyed upland game hunting the most, a far less physically challenging endeavour. We would hunt the swaths in farmer's fields where the upland birds would hide until launching skyward on our approach. My fondest memories are of warm, bright fall days walking the edges of the fields, my Dad with his trusty Mossberg 12-gauge bolt gun and I as a lad with my Cooley Model 84 single-shot 20-gauge at the ready. Not many birds were harvested, but the walks were incredible, the sky, wind and sun touching me to this day. My Dad would also have three of my friends accompany us to nearby lakes for water birds. My friend Arnie was the envy of us all as he had a Winchester Model 97 pump gun in 12-gauge.

Becoming a good shot is a requisite part of the hunting experience. My brother and I pursued that goal with a Cooley Model 75 .22 rimfire our Dad gave

us. It felled many gophers on our maternal grandparents' farm. In my mid teens, I traded my way into an identical Cooley so my brother and I both had one.

Hunting remained an important recreation after moving to BC in the mid-1960s and remained so for many years. Within months of arriving in BC, I met my friend Chris, a superb shot and accomplished woodsman. Together we hunted grouse on Vancouver Island and the south-central interior of BC using muzzle-loading and cartridge shotguns. One of the best shotguns I have hunted with was a borrowed Thomas Ketland 14-gauge flintlock. It was an incredible-handling gun, which had the latest Ketland-designed technology with roller springs and frizzen. The lock time was amazingly rapid. Chris would use a little double-barrel, 28-gauge percussion conversion which he had restored. Our hunting experiences included crossing a swollen, chilly creek with clothes, boots, muzzle-loading shotgun and powder held high to keep them dry. Arriving unscathed on the opposite bank was exhilarating.

Compare those memories to those of



**Branko's Uncle
Zveneslav Knesky with
his falcon, mid-1970s.**



**Branko in hunting mode
with his BSA sporter.**

Branko. He and his family escaped from behind Czechoslovakia's Iron Curtain before it fell.

"My experience of hunting started when I came to Canada. Back in the former Czechoslovakia, firearms ownership was tightly controlled under the communists. One had to be politically reliable and connected to have access to guns and to pursue hunting. My uncle, Zveneslav Knesky, having been a regional fire chief, was trusted by the powers that be to own guns. He hunted boar and deer, but enjoyed fishing and hunting with his falcon, as well. With his falcon, he hunted for rabbits to put in the pot and varmints as predator control on his country property.

"Our family's connection to nature goes back to my maternal grandfather, Vladimir. He grew up in a very turbulent time, being born at the beginning of the First World War and starting a family at the beginning of the Second World War. Getting out into nature was his way of dealing with the upheavals of his life. He was a man of faith, but his pragmatic nature did not allow him to believe in a god in the conventional way. For him, nature was what explained and proved creation, so he had a profound respect and appreciation of nature. He

was an expert fisherman, he harvested mushrooms and berries and taught his children the skills he had, passing on his reverence for the natural world.

"Grandpa Vladimir took me out tracking animals, taught me how to fish and took me along on foraging and exploring trips whenever we could get away. Some of my fondest memories are of time spent with my grandpa adventuring.

"Before I came to Canada, I read books about North America, mostly by James Fenimore Cooper and Jack London. The way these authors described nature and the wildlife on this continent was the stuff of dreams. Before I came here, my Uncle Zveneslav wanted to give me a gun, but my mom felt I was still too young, and shortly after that we left the old country. I did not buy my first gun until I was 25 years old. Initially, I did target and competitive shooting and only started to hunt much later on.

"I started to go hunting with friends who were experienced hunters. I found it was an extension of the fishing and foraging that I carried on before coming to Canada. My hunting experience is not as much about getting the game, but far more about enjoying the experience. It takes me right back to those days spent

with my grandpa out in woods of the old country. A day spent tracking game is as satisfying as harvesting something. Initially, I started with hunting upland game with a borrowed .22 rimfire; however, I wanted to use more old-time technology to enjoy the experience even more. So, I began to use a flintlock smoothbore trade gun or a percussion 12-gauge muzzleloader shotgun. If I go hunting for deer, I carry a vintage BSA-built Lee Enfield in 303 British that has been modified to emulate an old-style Lee-Speed Sporter. It has a short, 23-inch barrel and is very pleasant to carry. I have yet to get a deer, though I have taken grouse.

"I always look forward to being able to get away and head out into the woods again. One day I will harvest that deer when I finally find it; until then, I will enjoy every moment I am out there looking for it."

Both these narratives teach us something about the hunting experience. It is part of our inner being and transcends regions, nations and borders. It is something we do! It is memorable, it is a connection with the earth. If we are Indigenous, native born or an immigrant, hunting is part of our firearms heritage. 🦅



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Public Safety & Posturing C-71

The appearance of Bill C-71 on the political landscape has interrupted Bruce's series on Canadian culture. His third article in that series should appear in the next issue. The Editor.



The Liberal's new gun bill, C-71, is a classic piece of political posturing. As is typical of such legislation, it was withheld for almost three years until an appropriately emotional moment arrived. In this case, the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting served the need. Almost immediately following it, anti-gun organizations in the US began to exploit the crime by spending millions to create a "spontaneous" pub-

lic outcry for more gun control. They further exploited the emotions of the moment by enlisting high school students as leaders and organizers of the anti-gun crusade. Students who did not support the preferred agenda were ignored and quickly dropped from the media debates. Despite the fact that it was in another country completely disconnected from Canadian law, the Liberals saw their chance and jumped

Bill C-71 removes the authority of the governor in council to classify firearms and grants it to the RCMP. This momentous step removes the authority of the elected and gives legislative power to unelected bureaucrats.

on the bandwagon.

The Liberals claim Bill C-71 will improve public safety with "common sense" amendments. As evidence, they noted that between 2013 and 2016 there was a 30 per cent increase in crimes involving guns. On the face of it, this sounds convincing. The trick is in the word "involved," which in official statistics speak means that a gun was nearby or associated, even if it was not present during the crime. This "evidence" was further slanted by using the dates 2013 to 2016 because 2013 was a statistical outlier with the lowest rate of criminal homicides in 50 years. So no wonder the numbers went up.

Another problem with their policy is the assumption that the law-abiding are the problem and tightening restrictions on them will have a significant impact on the violence of criminals. The evidence utterly refutes this idea. In 2012, Statistics Canada found that less than five per cent of firearms used in homicide were ever registered. Only two per cent of accused murderers ever had a gun license.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

Bill C-71 is purely administrative:

1. It removes the five-year limit on background checks and extends them back to a license applicant's birth. What standards will be used to determine risk from long-ago incidents is not stated. No evidence is presented that the current five-

year system is too lenient or failing to spot problem applicants. It is merely assumed that more regulation is better.

2. Transfers of non-restricted firearms must now be pre-approved by the Canadian Firearms Program. Both buyer and seller must provide their firearms license number and personal data in order to get a reference number approving the transfer. This is merely a new procedure to fulfil an existing requirement. Firearms sales already require the seller to determine that the buyer has a firearm's license. This legal requirement on the seller is now paired with an additional requirement for bureaucratic permission. No evidence has been presented that trusting lawful owners to obey the law has resulted in a significant problem. In both the old and new system, the government cannot track an illegal transaction unless something else draws their attention. Net impact, more money for bureaucracy, more hassle for the law-abiding and zero impact on criminals.
3. Gun stores will be required to keep records of firearms and purchasers for 20 years. This requirement makes a standard business practice into a legal requirement. Well, sort of. Businesses are already required to confirm that a buyer has a valid firearms license before they can legally sell guns or ammunition. For obvious reasons, they need to document this check to prove that they have not been breaking the law. Net effect of the new regulation is nothing more than procedural. Before they had to keep records to prove they were not breaking the law, now they must keep records because it is the law.

Still, rule-changing busywork can be defended by ignorance and made up stories. Our prime minister has stated: "We're also introducing stronger and more rigorous background checks on gun sales. And if you want to buy a gun, by law you'll have to show a license at the point of purchase. Right now, that's not a requirement." – Justin Trudeau, March 20, 2018.

Ignorance which Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety, supports with a glib, made-up story: "Having sold several firearms to the same customer over

the years, the sales clerk decides that he knows the customer well enough and does not have to run a check against the license," Goodale said. "Bill C-71 will ensure that the salesperson is required to make that call." Is there evidence that this is typical or resulting in problems? Well, we have Ralph's little story.

Another claimed benefit is that the police, when they have reasonable grounds and judicial authorization, will be able to trace guns using business records. But this is scarcely a system. For example, a gun is purchased in Montreal by a person that moves to Winnipeg and is used in a crime in Vancouver. Yet without a central gun registry, they must slowly (judicial approval for each store inquiry?) work their way through every gun store in Canada until they happen upon the right one. Assuming it was not an illegal gun in the first place, in which case they would find nothing after all their work. Sounds more like an invitation to building a national registry than a crime-fighting strategy.

1. It restricts pre-approved Authorizations to Transport a restricted or prohibited firearm to transporting to an owner's home after a purchase and transporting to approved shooting ranges within the province of residence. The previous Conservative government's bill (C-42) had extended automatic permission to include going to a gunsmith, a gun show, a Canadian port of exit or a peace officer or chief firearms officer for verification, registration or disposal. Have any of these activities proved harmful? Have they been so problematic that each permission must now be given on a case-by-case basis? Or are the Liberals simply "proving" the Conservatives wrong by undoing their legislation. It's more bureaucracy, more diversion of limited resources and more hassle for the law-abiding with zero increase in public safety.
2. The bill removes the authority of the governor in council to classify firearms and grants the RCMP the legislative authority to classify firearms. This is a momentous step, removing the authority of the elected and giving legislative power to write criminal law to unelected bureaucrats. To make matters worse, this rejection of a basic

principle of democracy and responsible government is unlimited. The RCMP now has the power to write criminal law by any standard and according to any criteria they see fit. Those who claim that this is merely the power of classification do not seem aware that this "classification" was written into the criminal law and therefore the power to classify is the power to legislate criminal law. This is a shocking development in a country that talks big about its freedom. When you take the politics out of the creation of law, you take democracy out of the creation of law. This is a subtle but very real attack on the basic principle of responsible government. But, not so surprising from a prime minister who openly brags about how he admires communist China's "basic dictatorship."

3. Quebec is to be given a copy of all the old gun registry records, which we now know were not destroyed as required by law.

CONCLUSION

Behind the posturing and the bogus claims of public safety, this Act is a further attack on the law-abiding in that it treats them as the problem. It underscores the Liberal belief that bureaucratic micro-management of Canadians, even without evidence of its justification, is a policy suitable for a free, self-governing people. The shifting of power to write law out of parliament and into the hands of a national police force is a move fraught with risk to our freedom. Responsible government is something we fought for, struggled for and died for over two centuries. It is imperiled so the Liberal Party can posture in the hope of a few votes, tell glib stories to the gullible and sacrifice essential principles for the smallest and most transient of political gains. 🚩

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A magazine extension gives a competitor more magazine to grab onto.

GS DESIGNS:

AR Magazine Extension Review

BY WALLY FONG

LAR-15 and MFT magazine extensions attached easily.

Imagine a simple base plate replacement of a 10-round LAR-15 pistol magazine or Mission First Tactical (MFT) 10-round AR pistol magazine with a polymer base extension that mimics the dimensions of a full-sized AR magazine. That's what GS Designs has brought to market, and it's a concept so simple I'm shocked it hasn't been done before. There's no change in magazine capacity, but having more magazine to grab is a benefit to 3-Gun competitors.

Having plenty of both MFT and LAR-15 magazines on hand, I decided to run a hard test on these magazine extensions. The attachment of the extensions to the aluminum magazines was straight forward, just slide the base plate off, then slide the extension in its place. There is an upward curve on the back of the extension that acts as a natural stop, so you'll never over insert the magazine too far to the rear. On the front side is a Philips screw that turns into the polymer extension to keep the magazine from shaking forward and loose with repetitive impact and use. The MFT magazine was similar, but both the extension and base plate are held into place via dual notches, first at the bottom of the MFT magazine, then again on the bottom of the extension to secure the base plate on.

Over three months of testing I could have cheated and just done dry magazine dumps, but I elected to load and fire rounds as well, so that spring pressure, weight, recoil stress, as well as the actual drops, all factored in. The first 30 drops between two sets of the MFT and aluminum extensions were on a concrete floor at an outdoor range, and I encountered no issues with feeding rounds into the chamber, loading or dropping free. The next 40 to 50 drops were done at an indoor range three weeks later, where the floor has rubberized mats. This is where the extension on one of the MFT magazines cracked along the top where it is thinnest in the notch. Other users have mentioned MFT extensions have exploded on contact with gravel in the middle of a 3-Gun match. But no explosion here, just a crack, and on a rubber mat of all things. Two weeks later, another 50 drops were conducted at another outdoor range onto gravel. I ran the same cracked MFT magazine and surprisingly it has still held up. I briefly toyed with the idea of hockey tape or Krazy Glue, but left it to see what would



The MFT extension cracked but kept on working.

happen. So far so good. The aluminum polymer extensions performed flawlessly with well over 130-plus drops and counting.

The aluminum extensions line up perfectly with the classic design of a regular-sized AR magazine, whereas the MFT extension is somewhere between the windowed style of a MagPul magazine and something else. Both are functional, and I highly recommend the extensions for aluminum LAR pistol magazines. If there is a way for GS Designs to toughen up the one little weak point on their MFT magazine extensions, I'd personally go buy more of them, as I like the grip and texture better than the traditional aluminum design. Find out more at www.gsdesigns.ca. 🇨🇦

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Lyman produces an entire line of carbon fibre magazine extensions for shotguns.

CARBON FIBRE

The what, why & who of carbon fibre in the gun industry

BY AL VOTH

We've all seen the high-tech look of carbon fibre. It's shiny black weave pattern is unmistakable and screams strength, light weight and cutting-edge technology. I've seen that look in car parts, golf clubs, snowboards, knife handles and musical instruments. But as a shooter, it's always been in the world of gun parts that it's fascinated me the most. After all, strength and light weight are things gun owners often pursue like the Holy Grail, so it's natural that carbon fibre would make an appearance in our industry.

I've always wanted to learn more about carbon fibre, so when the opportunity recently arose to tour a firearm manufacturer that specializes in using carbon fibre, I jumped at the chance. It meant a road trip to Columbia Falls, Mont., but visiting and touring the facilities of Proof Research was worth the effort. The high-tech nature of carbon fibre is mirrored in this company, which uses it as a major

component of their barrels and gunstocks. The folks there proved generous in sharing their time and knowledge, so I could learn about carbon fibre.

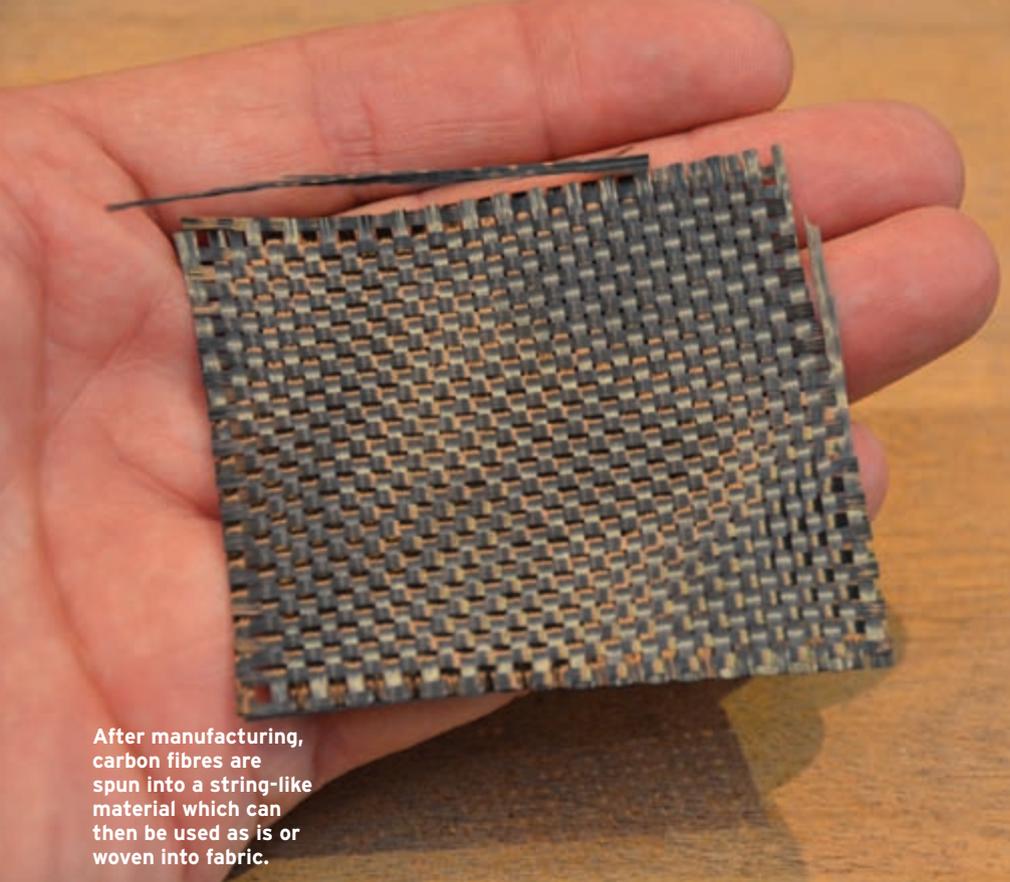
WHAT IS CARBON FIBRE?

The first carbon fibres were produced in the 1860s for use as filaments in light bulbs, with Thomas Edison being one of those early pioneers. Industrial use met with a mixture of success and failure until the 1970s, when the modern age of carbon fibre began to take off. Japan was an early leader in the technology and still is today, in that they are the world's second-largest producer of the fibre. Combined, the US and Mexico produce the most, with China holding down the number three spot.

That fibre is made from organic polymers, which consist of long strings of molecules held together by carbon atoms. These fibres are heated to a high temperature to carbonize the material

and form tightly bonded carbon crystals. Gases, liquids and other materials are used in the manufacturing process to create specific effects, qualities and grades of carbon fibre. But these initial filaments are about five microns in diameter, making them almost too small to see. To create a usable product, they are woven into a string-like shape called a tow, which can then be wound onto a large reel, from which it is unspooled for industrial use.

From there, the tow can be used to weave fabric or create whatever shapes the manufacturer desires. However, fibre is only half of the mix, because to become useful a resin must be added to stiffen the fibre and hold it into a specific shape. This often takes the form of an epoxy-like material and the attributes of the resin are a key part in getting the carbon fibre to perform to its maximum potential. The recipes used and the processes employed to achieve all of



After manufacturing, carbon fibres are spun into a string-like material which can then be used as is or woven into fabric.



this tend to be closely guarded industrial secrets.

But companies like Proof Research don't manufacture their own carbon fibre, they buy it from suppliers, just as they would the steel bar stock used to make barrels. The resins, however, they develop on their own in conjunction with their Advanced Composites Division, located in Dayton, Ohio.

WHY CARBON FIBRE?

As you're likely starting to understand, there is a lot of research, time and effort required to make carbon fibre products, which means they aren't cheap. For the extra money, the consumer gets a performance difference best summed up by the general rule that carbon fibre, per unit of weight, is twice as stiff as steel and five times as strong. It's also highly chemical resistant, has low thermal expansion, and when the right resins are used, can dissipate heat faster. And, of course, these are exactly the kind of properties needed to make great rifle barrels and many other products for gun owners.

WHO PRODUCES CARBON FIBRE PRODUCTS?

Of course, Proof Research isn't the only company providing carbon fibre products to shooters. I've been using carbon fibre cleaning rods for some time now. These are marketed by Tipton and

are widely available in Canada. Carbon fibre seems to be an ideal product for cleaning rods because it won't damage bores, and grit won't embed in the rod. Additionally, it can be bent to extreme angles and will still return to its original straightness.

The legs of camera and spotting scope tripods have been manufactured with carbon fibre for many years now. The combination of strength and light weight this provides is unmatched. Leupold has recently started offering a rifle-attaching bipod that also uses carbon fibre. It seems to be particularly well suited for hunters, as it's quick to attach and detach and weighs next to nothing compared to conventional steel and aluminum versions.

Handguards and forends for rifles are available in a mind-numbing number of configurations, and carbon fibre versions are a relatively new twist in what's available. Canada's MDT offers a carbon fibre handguard for their ESS bolt-action chassis, which cuts weight by 30 per cent compared to the aluminum version. A carbon fibre foregrip and a cheek riser are also available. Other companies offer handguards for AR-type rifles made from carbon fibre. I've used the PRI version as supplied on the ATRS Modern Varmint rifle and it looks and works great.

Shotgunners aren't left out of the carbon fibre craze either. Beretta's A400



UltraLite uses a carbon fibre rib to shave weight from the gun. There's also a carbon fibre pistol grip cap on that shotgun, and while it looks cool, I doubt there's much weight saving as a result. Additionally, Lyman offers carbon fibre magazine extensions for pumps and semi-autos. They're available in a number of different capacities for Remington, Benelli, Beretta and Mossberg shotguns, and help reduce weight at the muzzle end of the gun.

THE CARBON FIBRE LOOK

Because of the great performance carbon fibre products provide, the carbon fibre look has become popular. This means



Proof Research is a proven leader in utilizing carbon fibre in the manufacture of firearms and firearm components.



The stainless-steel core of a barrel (bottom) before wrapping in carbon fibre shows how much material is added to a typical barrel.

PROOF RESEARCH IN CANADA

Proof Research was formed in 2012 by the merger of Jense Precision, a custom rifle manufacturer, and Advanced Barrel Systems, which held a patented process for producing carbon fibre-wrapped barrels. Another three companies were also added, including a maker of high-tech composite stocks, a steel barrel manufacturer and a composite materials company. Building on this body of knowledge and experience, they began to offer both steel and carbon fibre-wrapped replacement barrels to shooters. These include pre-fit designs, as well as gunsmith-fit offerings for bolt-action rifles and modern sporting rifles. They also sell complete bolt-action rifles, which feature their barrels and carbon fibre stocks. Prices are high, but these are state-of-the-art products. For example, all rifles come with a half-MOA guarantee, and their barrels have been used to win numerous competitions, including the prestigious Wimbledon Cup for the last two years in a row.

Historically, their products have been difficult to locate in Canada, but that changed this year when Alberta's Korth Group took on distribution of the complete Proof Research line of products. This means gunsmiths, dealers and individual shooters will now have access to a reliable supply of Proof Research barrels and rifles. For more information, visit their respective websites: www.proofresearch.com, www.korthgroup.com.

there are products in the market which have that distinctive carbon fibre patterning, but haven't used a gram of it in the product. So far, I've never encountered a product that someone is trying to pass off as carbon fibre when it isn't, but I have seen the fact that it's just a "look" mentioned in rather small print. So, beware. Read the product description carefully. Don't expect to get carbon fibre just because it looks like it.

THE FUTURE OF CARBON FIBRE

Right now, carbon fibre is a premium product. The costs associated with buying it and producing products made from it assures that. However, as more uses are found for carbon fibre, the demand for it will increase. As a re-

sult, production efficiencies will be found and the price to manufacture products from it will drop. I have no doubt prices will eventually drop to the point where we'll start to see carbon fibre products that perform poorly. Just like steel, aluminum or polymers, I'm sure it's also possible to produce inferior products from carbon fibre. I know some of the people at Proof Research would argue that situation has already arrived. So, if carbon fibre products are in your future, do your research and buy from a reputable company that stands behind its product line. Carbon fibre is more than a high-tech look, there's some serious technology in the background and it has the potential to elevate every shooter's performance. 🏆



HITTING BIRDS

How to improve your
wingshooting success

BY KEN BAILEY

This hunter has incorrectly mounted his shotgun. Note how he has bent his face down to meet the stock.

There's not a wingshooter to be found that can boast of a "good day" every day. Even the best hunters have slumps, the causes of which can be hard to diagnose and repair in the field. Most often we have no clue as to what's gone wrong, but understanding the simple foundations of shotgunning and focusing on incorporating them as you shoot is the surest way to get back on track.

The reason we miss our target, more than anything else, is because we're not employing the fundamentals of proper shooting form, including stance, shotgun mount, swing and follow-through.

STANCE

As with golf, if your stance isn't sound and balanced, your prospects for making a successful shot are pretty dim. Position your feet so that your lead foot (the left foot for right-handed shooters) is placed slightly ahead of the other foot, pointing just ahead of where you want to hit the bird. This foot holds most of your body weight and provides balance, encouraging a smooth swing and follow-through. If you don't have your lead foot positioned correctly, you risk running out of swing or follow-through room.

After you have positioned your feet correctly, swivel your head and torso back towards the bird and prepare to mount your shotgun.

MOUNTING YOUR SHOTGUN

Resist the temptation to mount too early; allow your eyes to focus on the bird before you start your mount. As you visually lock in on the bird, swing with the target and begin mounting your gun, the muzzle parallel to the bird's path. Mounting should be one smooth movement, using both hands equally. Stand erect and lift the gun to your shoulder. Don't lower or tilt your head, the gun



must come up all the way to your cheek. Your gun should be fully mounted as you determine the appropriate lead.

When pointing your shotgun, focus on the bird with both eyes open, not on the barrel or bead. This is a pointing, not an aiming, exercise. When you feel you have the correct lead, pull the trigger and concentrate on following through. Lack of follow-through is one of the primary reasons we shoot behind targets, even if the lead was perfect, and contributes to a host of other problems as we adjust our form after successive misses.

LEADING BIRDS

One of the most commonly heard questions in the marshes or upland fields is, "How far did you lead that bird?" It's generally a meaningless question, as we all visualize lead differently. Further, there are several options for obtaining the correct lead.

Sustained lead involves swinging the muzzle ahead of the bird and maintaining a calculated distance ahead of it both during and, importantly, after you pull the trigger.

The swing-through approach describes >



Patterning your shotgun is key to determining whether it fits you well or not.

a process of starting the muzzle behind the bird, pushing it toward the front of the bird, pulling the trigger just as the muzzle swings past the target, then continuing the follow-through swing at the same speed.

Spot-shooting is simply pointing your shotgun to a stationary point ahead of the bird and pulling the trigger. It requires that you accurately judge the speed and distance of the bird, which

takes a lot of experience, but this is the fastest of the three primary techniques.

Which is best? All of them. Or none of them, if you prefer. The fact is that none is inherently better than the others, and most experienced shotguns use all three, depending upon what the situation calls for. If you have lots of time to shoot, you can select one technique and hone it to a razor's edge, but bird hunting just doesn't work that way.

We're surprised by birds occasionally, or we have the opportunity to shoot more than one bird, or we're simply caught napping. Either way, time to prepare is not a luxury we enjoy very often when hunting. Fortunately, that marvel we call the human brain unites our eyes and our trigger fingers and makes the decision on appropriate technique based on an analysis of the situation.

Having said that, most top wingshoot-



ers prefer sustained lead, and that's generally what's taught at shooting schools. Many competent shooters, however, actually prefer a version of sustained lead that incorporates aspects of the swing-through method. That is, they start their muzzle behind a bird, push it out ahead, then find and hold a sustained lead, continuing that lead after they pull the trigger. At the end of the day, you have to find what works

best for you, and that means experimenting and practicing on a clays range whenever you have the chance.

Let's go back to that question about how much lead is required. You can do the math for yourself, but in round numbers if your shot is travelling 1,200 feet per second and the mallard you're trying to shoot is 40 yards away flying at 35 miles per hour, you need to lead it by about six feet. A mallard is only about a foot-and-a-half long, so you don't have to under-lead by much to have a complete miss or to have a waft of tail feathers float down while your bird flies away. And remember, that six-foot lead only holds true if you maintain that lead through the follow-through; if you stop your barrel movement as you squeeze the trigger, six feet won't be near enough. All in all, the math is confusing, but the shooting fundamentals we must conform to are decidedly not. They just take practice.

GUN FIT

Shotguns are not like rifles, which are carefully aimed through fine optical instruments. Though there may be some minor variability between users, generally speaking I can pick up your rifle if it's sighted in and shoot pretty well with it. The same can't be said for shotguns.

With shotguns, we don't have the benefit of that scope to usurp all the other variables. Shotguns don't shoot where we aim them, they shoot where we point them, and therein lies the rub. If a shotgun doesn't fit well, it doesn't point where we're looking, and we have little chance of shooting it well. Talk to international hunters – they'll often tell you that when they travel to a foreign destination to big game hunt, they borrow a rifle from the outfitter to avoid the hassles of traveling with firearms. But when they travel to wingshoot, the benefits of taking their own shotgun outweigh the headaches of travelling with it. The reason? Fit.

As renowned author Jack O'Connor said in his 1949 classic *The Shotgun Book*, "A well-fitting gun doesn't make a crack shot out of a dub, a poor fit doesn't make a dub out of a slicker, but everyone does his best shooting with a gun

stock that fits." Truer words were never spoken, but do we really understand what "fit" means, or does it just become a convenient scapegoat when we're not shooting well and a humble response when others offer praise?

As noted, shotgun fit is all about ensuring that your shotgun shoots where you look, the buttstock functioning to put your eye in the proper position to align where you look with where the shot charge will fly.

To determine if your gun fits, get to a range and shoot at stationary paper targets from about 30 metres. Using the choke/load combination you most frequently shoot, take shots both from a solid rest, as well as while snap-shooting, as you would in a real-time hunting situation. What you discover may surprise you. Even from a dead rest, your shotgun may not shoot where you're looking, and this is often exacerbated when you shoot quickly off-hand.

This can be a gun problem, but most often it's a fit issue. There are three primary measures to consider when assessing stock fit. Length of pull (LOP) is the distance from the middle of the buttpad to the middle of the trigger. Too long and you catch your gun under your armpit or on your clothes; too short and you'll often experience greater felt recoil, with your hand bumping your nose when you touch off.

Drop at comb (DAC) is the distance from the line of sight, or rib, down to the comb. Too much drop and your eye will be too low when you mount the gun and your shot charge will fly below the target; too little DAC will result in your charge being above the target.

Drop at heel (DAH) is the distance from the line of sight to the heel of the buttstock. This is less important than DAC, as most can comfortably accommodate a wide range of DAH.

Other measures influencing fit include cast and pitch. Cast is the deviation of the butt away from the centreline of the gun and helps align your eye with the centre of the barrel. Most American-designed shotguns are built with little or no cast, while European shotguns are. Guns described as being "cast off" are designed for right eye-dominant



Acquire your target by aligning your feet towards where you want to shoot your bird and pivoting your torso towards the bird as you begin your mount.



As you mount your shotgun, track the bird visually and with the muzzle.

shooters, “cast on” guns are set up for left eye dominance. With no cast, it’s common for a right-hand shooter’s pattern to be centered to the left of where he’s looking.

Pitch is the angle of the butt or buttpad in relation to the line of sight. A gun with the appropriate pitch will remain square on your shoulder when mounted and fired, and your face will stay on the stock. Incorrect pitch and recoil will push the muzzle up or down, into or away from your face, making follow-up shots difficult.

So, what should our LOP, DAC, DAH, pitch and cast measurements be?

There’s no easy answer. Correct LOP depends upon whether you’re shooting clays in a t-shirt or waterfowl with a sweater and parka. Trap shooters and upland hunters shoot best with a straight stock, as they’re generally shooting rising targets, while waterfowlers and skeet shooters are just the opposite. Modern manufacturers have addressed the problem by designing today’s smoothbores with stock dimensions designed for the average

shooter. Unfortunately, all have different opinions as to what constitutes average. The only answer is to shoot as many shotguns as you can and find the one that feels and shoots best for you. Minor adjustments to DAC, DAH and LOP can be made with the shims conveniently provided with many guns today.

Those who can afford it can pay to have a shotgun fitted by a professional, who’ll make recommendations for stock alterations that should bring out the best in your shooting.



Weld your cheek to the buttstock, both eyes open, lead the bird and fire.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

Consistently hitting birds in the field is a learned skill that requires preparation and practice. The following are some of the little things to keep in mind that help overcome the big problems.

- Focus on the bird's head when shooting. If you look at the whole bird, invariably you'll shoot with insufficient lead. The more precise your target, the better you'll shoot, every time.
- Keep your head down. After shooting behind birds, shooting over top of them is the most common problem

and it's the result of peeking, or not having your head down on the stock. Think about this every time you shoot.

- Keep your eyes open. Many shotguns have a tendency to close one eye, as they might when shooting a pistol or rifle. Aiming a shotgun makes you stop your swing, and invariably you'll shoot behind your target.
- Pick out a single bird from a flock. Whether hunting ducks or Hungarian partridge, don't shoot into the

flock; there's a lot more open space there than you think. Select a single bird and shoot it. The only path to a double starts with dropping the first one.

- Can't figure out the lead? Lead it more, especially for crossing birds, which are difficult to over-lead.
- Practice! Shotgunning is a skill that improves with practice. Time spent at the sporting clays, skeet or trap range, or even hand-tossed clays at the cottage, will translate to making you a better wingshooter. 🦅



WALKING WITH GUNS

Practical ways to carry firearms in the field

BY VANESSA HARROP



Simon Kyle-Little
using the African-
style shoulder carry
in Northern Territory
of Australia.

As I slipped and slid along the side of a snow-covered mountain on the South Island of New Zealand, I struggled to keep my rifle sling on my shoulder. I was only wearing a small day pack, but I knew I needed to do something to secure my rifle so both hands could be free. The only thing I could think of that would allow quick access to the rifle was to snap the sling into the chest strap on my pack. Sometimes you just have to improvise, but with a little pre-planning, carrying your rifle can be safe and comfortable.

There are many ways to carry your rifle while out in the field and I'm going to share a few of my favourites. Obviously, the two most important factors in choosing how to carry your firearm when hunting are muzzle control and terrain.

AFRICAN CARRY/PH STYLE

I spend quite a bit of time hunting in Africa and the way you see Professional Hunters (PH) carrying their rifles is the African carry or PH style. The African carry was originally adopted by the likes of Courtney Selous. In this method, the rifle is carried by a tracker walking in front of the hunter, who follows closely behind. This allows the hunter to just step forward, grasp the rifle and use the tracker's shoulder for a rest. Most PH's rifles are of the large-bore variety and are heavy. This makes those long stalks in the veld very onerous, so it makes sense to have the majority of the weight supported by the shoulder. PHs also believe that carrying in this style, instead of using a sling, is less dangerous in the "thick stuff." This way nothing gets caught up on thorns and thick bush when faced with a close quarter, dangerous game situation. The rifle is ready at a moment's notice.

The safety of this carry is often brought into question, but when you think about it, it offers excellent muzzle control, as you are actually holding on to the muzzle. It is an excellent way to carry a shotgun or rifle that is not equipped with a sling, especially for long distances. Over/under shotguns are typically broken open and carried in this manner, as well. It is not recommended when people are walking directly in front of you, however. ▶



The sling carry can be used over the shoulder, or over the head to keep both hands free.

The trail carry keeps one hand free for balance or to move branches aside.



SLING CARRY

The sling carry uses a rifle sling placed over your shoulder to support the rifle and is good for long walks in open cover. However, if brush becomes dense, the barrel can get caught in shoulder-high branches and twigs, so you may need to switch to a different carrying method. It's a good carry when walking with others.

There are two basic versions of this method. The first sees the rifle simply slung over the shoulder. This allows quick access to the rifle but limits the use of that arm. The second version is to slip the sling over your head, so the rifle is slung across the back. This is a great carry for long distances or when you may need both hands, but access to the rifle is slower.

There are countless styles of slings available and each hunter seems to have their preference. The best advice I can offer is to try a variety and see which one you prefer. I'm partial to very basic slings, but what works for me may not work for you. Some clothing companies, such as Stoney Creek, have added rubber beads or grip strips to the shoulders of their clothing, and these help to prevent the sling from slipping off the shoulder in wet conditions.

TRAIL CARRY

The trail carry is commonly used for short distances or when quick access to the firearm is required, but you still want to leave one hand free for balance or making your way through heavy cover. With the trail carry, the muzzle points forward and the rifle is gripped just in front of the trigger guard, with the arm hanging at your side.

A few years ago, I took an old cow elk in the mountains, and as my partner, TJ Schwanky, and I were boning her out in the field, a huge boar grizzly joined us with the intent of helping us lighten our loads. We managed to scare him off but knew that he would likely be back. As I stood guard holding the rifle two-handed and ready, TJ quickly loaded our packs with as much meat as we could carry. We shouldered the heavy packs and, with the rifle in hand, started the long trek down the mountain. Suddenly, I heard a branch snap. TJ quickly dismissed it and said it was just the wind. But, no sooner had he finished that quip, when we saw Mr. Grizz on his way up the mountain headed straight towards us. Had the rifle been secured to the pack, we wouldn't have been in



T.J. Schwanky using a cradle carry.



The author using an elbow carry with an over/under shotgun.

a position to protect ourselves had the situation escalated. At the end of the day, we were able to spook him off and get down the mountain safely.

CRADLE CARRY

The cradle carry rests the gun across your forearm and elbow. Your dominant hand should be used to grip the stock firmly in case you stumble. It's a comfortable carry that reduces arm fatigue and is great for walking long distances. This is a common carry with shotgunners hunting flushing birds, where quick access is required.

ELBOW OR SIDE CARRY

The elbow or side carry is a very comfortable carry for break-action firearms. The pivot of the open action rests easily in the crook of your elbow and down over your forearm. With this style, the barrel naturally points down. This is typically used by bird hunters utilizing over/under shotguns when quick access is not required. It's also comfortable for walking long distances.

SHOULDER CARRY

The shoulder carry balances the forestock on your shoulder, with the

dominant hand holding the pistol grip firmly. This is a good carry when walking beside or behind others. It is not a good carry if others are behind you. It is a carry commonly used by rifle hunters that don't use a sling and is quite comfortable for long-distance treks.

I recently went spur wing fowl hunting in South Africa in the Stormberg Mountains. This is a traditional upland bird hunt, using English Pointers. These fast-flying birds are very similar to our Hungarian partridge, with the exception that they live at elevations to over >



The shoulder carry can be a useful option for long-distance treks.



The two-handed carry provides the fastest way to get a gun into action.

7,000 feet. We covered approximately 10 kilometres in a typical day and the birds flushed easily at first, but later in the day they would hold so tight that you almost had to step on them before they would flush. The birds liked the cover on the tops of the hills, so we spent a lot of time either going uphill, downhill or going along the side of the hill.

As the days were long, I used three methods of carry during this hunt. This is typical when covering long distances. By changing up the carry position, you give your body parts a break. While walking between birds, I used the elbow carry and the African carry with the action broke open. We were usually hunting four abreast until a dog went on point. Then, I would close the action and with the shotgun ready, walk up on the dog until the bird flushed. By varying my carries throughout the day, it made the hunt much more enjoyable and far less fatiguing.

TWO-HANDED OR READY CARRY

With the two-handed or ready carry, the gun is held by both hands in front of the body with the barrel up. The trigger finger is always outside of the trigger guard. This carry provides excellent muzzle control, particularly in thick brush or weeds, and it's the fastest way to get a gun into action when you feel a shot is imminent.

On my cape buffalo hunt in Tanzania last year, my buffalo didn't go down right away and ended up running into the thick stuff. The grass was seven feet tall in places and the bush was so thick it was like a huge green wall. I followed behind my PH, my heartbeat pounding in my ears. I carried my rifle two-handed, ready for the possible charge of an angry dagga boy. We were in tight quarters and in a very dangerous situation. I knew that in a blink of an eye, things could go seriously wrong. Thankfully, we found him very dead.

BACKPACKING

I spend quite a bit of my season in the mountains hunting sheep. I'm usually packing enough for 10 days and covering some very steep terrain. I make sure my pack is well balanced, and that includes where and how I'm going to carry my rifle.

One of my favourite methods is to strap my rifle to the centre of the backpack. This keeps the weight centred and the rifle will not sway or move. This way my backpack and rifle aren't going to be the cause of losing my balance. That, I can do just fine all on my own. A simple solution for modifying any pack for centre carry is the Stoney Creek gun scabbard. It's a material pouch that cradles the butt of the rifle and it has a nylon webbing strap and adjustable side release buckle that simply attach to the pack. It's light-weight and completely adjustable. For more information, visit <https://www.stoneycreek.co.nz/gun-scabbard.html>.

Another common method is to strap the rifle to the side of your pack. The main issue with this style of carry is that you then need to counter balance your pack with an equal amount of weight on the other side of your pack. This can be difficult to do, and an unbalanced pack can lead to serious back pain or injury. A much better solution is to do a more typical shoulder sling carry with the aid of a support system like the Pak-Rat. The Pak-Rat Rifle Support System keeps your rifle supported against your hip and secure on your shoulder, taking the weight off of the actual pack. This is a three-piece system: the Pak-Rat Quick-Clip attaches to the shoulder strap of your pack, the Prolinx Sling is designed to help absorb the shock of your slung rifle as you hike and the Rat-Tail Rifle Support attaches to a pack waist belt, preventing the butt of the rifle from moving. It's the best sling carry system I've used when wearing a backpack. It leaves both hands free, takes the weight off the pack and allows quick access to the rifle. For more information, visit <https://pakratgear.com/>.

As you've likely gathered by now, there is no single ideal carry method for all conditions. This makes it important to be familiar with several so you can switch it up during the day as you become fatigued or as conditions dictate. It's also important to have the right gear when you get into challenging terrain. With quality equipment and the right carry method, you'll be able to hunt effectively and, most importantly, safely. 🍀



The author using the Pak-Rat Rifle Support System in conjunction with a backpack.

CARRY SAFELY

The most important factor when choosing how to carry your gun is safety. The terrain you're walking across and where others in your group are located must constantly be considered. And always remember these rules for carrying a gun safely while hunting:

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and under control at all times.
2. Whenever practical, carry your firearm with an empty chamber.
3. Once you load a round in the chamber, keep the safety on until you are ready to fire.
4. Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you've made the decision to shoot.



Produced by the National Archery Federation of Canada. Production can be purchased for \$10.00 per 100 sheets.
Produit par la Fédération Archery Canada. Production peut être achetée pour \$10.00 par 100 feuilles.



UP-CLOSE RIFLES

Practical choices for the deer woods

BY DON MACLEAN

My gun cabinet contains a number of rifles which have the capability to effectively harvest big game at over 200 yards, and in some situations I appreciate those abilities. However, these days I often find myself opting to hunt at shorter ranges, and when I do, I have a pair of favourite rifles I carry in the field. They are a Marlin 336 in 35 Remington and a Ruger Carbine in 44 Magnum. I shoot these guns with confidence and, if you accept the fact they are 100-yard guns, they are effective on a variety of game. Both of these rifles, and the cartridges they are chambered for, have their merits and limitations. In my case, I like the ease of handling, their history and the fact they hit hard at close range.

When I grew up in Nova Scotia, big game hunting meant deer hunting, and back in the 1960s, when my brother and I accompanied our father on deer hunts, a transition was taking place. Our Dad hunted with a single-shot Cooney 12 gauge loaded with a slug, and if you hunted with a rifle, it was probably a surplus Lee Enfield. Over time, more and more new rifles began to show up. These were what we called woods rifles – short, medium-powered rifles which combined moderate recoil with light weight to make them easy to carry. Most had open sights and were used at ranges under 100 yards. The most popular was the Winchester Model 94 chambered in 30-30 Win. The second most popular rifle was the Marlin 336, in the same chambering.

MARLIN 336

The Model 336 was designed back in

1948 and is a descendant of the venerable Marlin Model 1893, which was produced until 1936, and the Model 36, which ceased production in 1948. Today, the Model 336 remains in production and is marketed by Marlin as “an icon of the deer woods.” The company, which is now owned by Remington, currently produces the 336 in nine models, in both 30-30 Win. and 35 Remington chamberings. The Model 336’s original selling point was a solid top receiver combined with side ejection, which allowed top mounting of a scope. Compared to its main competitor at the time, the Winchester Model 94, the Marlin 336 was heavier and also had a pistol grip, compared to the Model 94’s straight grip stock. The Marlin 336 incorporates a micro-groove rifling system, which consists of numerous shallow rifling grooves. Marlin touted the system’s uniform bore dimensions and smooth finish to improve accuracy, prevent gas leakage and reduce bore fouling. Another benefit of this system to Marlin was reduced production time, as well as increased life of milling equipment.

My Marlin was built in 1991, so it incorporates some modern features such as the cross-bolt safety that Marlin introduced as a safety measure in 1983. With a Vortex Diamondback 1.75-5X scope installed, I have a rifle I can carry comfortably all day in the woods.

My Marlin 336 is chambered for 35 Remington, a cartridge which is unfamiliar to many people, but is cherished by hunters who know its superior performance on big game. Designed by Remington in 1906, the cartridge was originally chambered for Remington’s

Model 8 semi-automatic. While the 35 Remington has always lagged behind the 30-30 Win. in popularity, many consider it the superior cartridge in terms of game-taking ability.

RUGER MODEL 44

My second choice for a woods rifle is the Ruger Model 44. First released in 1961, it was originally marketed as the Deerstalker. The name was changed the following year after the Ithaca Gun Company filed a lawsuit claiming it infringed on their Deerslayer shotgun line. My rifle, built in 1967, is called a Ruger Carbine. Ruger discontinued the rifle in 1985, citing high production costs. A new model, the Ruger Deerfield Carbine, was launched in 2000 using a gas system similar to the Ruger Mini-14, and a rotary magazine, as opposed to the tubular magazine found in the Ruger Carbine. It was produced until 2006. The Model 44 featured a solid top receiver which was drilled and tapped for a scope. I mounted a Bushnell 1.5-5X scope on mine. In contrast, the Deerfield Carbine has an open receiver similar to the M1 carbine.

Both the Ruger Carbine and Deerfield were only available in 44 Magnum, a large-bore cartridge which was originally designed for revolvers. The cartridge owes its origin to early handloaders who experimented with the 44 Special to develop the 44 Magnum. One of the most famous was legendary gun writer Elmer Keith, who is credited with popularizing the 44 Magnum as a hunting cartridge.

For many people, their knowledge of the 44 Magnum can be traced to

The author's up-close rifles are vintage Ruger and Marlin big bores.



actor Clint Eastwood's role in the film *Dirty Harry*. In that 1971 movie, he proclaimed his Smith & Wesson Model 29, chambered in 44 Magnum, "the most powerful handgun in the world." His statement was only partially correct, for while the 44 Magnum was the most powerful commercially available handgun at the time, there were more powerful cartridges being handloaded. Today the cartridge remains one of the most popular commercial large-bore magnum cartridges. While it is no longer the most powerful handgun in the world, having been eclipsed by a number of cartridges, including the 460 S&W and 500 S&W, it remains very popular.

Handgun hunters embraced the 44 Magnum and it has harvested a wide variety of big game, ranging from deer and elk to, in the hands of skilled shooters, Cape buffalo, polar bears and even elephants. Craig Boddington, writing in *Guns and Ammo*, called the 44 Magnum his favourite hunting handgun. He considered 125 yards to be the 44 Magnum's "sensible limit," based on a standard hunting load paired with a 240-grain bullet.

Shortly after its introduction, the cartridge was adopted for use in rifles. Ruger was one of the first manufac-

turers to offer a rifle chambered in 44 Magnum when they introduced their 44 Magnum carbine in 1961. While Ruger discontinued its Deerfield Carbine in 2006, the popularity of the 44 Magnum as a rifle cartridge continues unabated. I found 17 different rifles currently in production which are chambered in 44 Magnum, a testament to its enduring popularity among shooters and hunters.

Short, light and packing a powerful punch, both my Marlin and Ruger meet my criteria for a classic woods rifle, which is quick handling and easy to carry all day in the woods. While many extoll the brush-busting capabilities of both calibres, I am not convinced that this is necessarily a selling point, at least for me. I am a firm believer in ensuring you have a clear shooting lane before making the shot. Something which I agree is easier to do when hunting from a stand. Another way to ensure success in the field is to use the best ammunition you can find for your rifle. Thanks to Hornady, I now have another choice.

A CARTRIDGE REVOLUTION

Both my Marlin 336 and Ruger 44 share the fact, common to all rifles with tubular magazines, that bullets have to be flat or round nosed to prevent

recoil from forcing ammunition in the magazine to chain-fire. Hornady truly revolutionized the world of rifles equipped with tubular magazines when they introduced their LEVERevolution ammunition in 2005. This line of ammunition features a spitzer bullet with an elastomer Flex-Tip, which can rest safely on the primer of the next cartridge in the magazine. In addition to this safety factor, the manufacturer also claims increased retained velocity and more energy delivered on the target. It has been suggested that accuracy issues may arise when using this ammunition in the Marlin 336's 20-inch barrels due to added power and velocity, but I haven't seen any issues after several years. Knowing the limitations of both cartridges, I am quite pleased with the results I get when I shoot at my local range. At 100 yards, using sandbags, both rifles produce groupings of two to three inches. I know both the guns and cartridges are capable of better in the hands of a more adept shooter. However, for the deer hunting I do, both combinations will bring home the venison. So, when I head to the deer woods this fall, I know I have two rifles I can shoot with confidence, as long as I limit my shots to 100 yards and the deer co-operate. The rest is up to me. 🍖



Hornady's LEVERevolution ammunition is a game-changer for rifles with tubular magazines.



A COMPARISON OF THE RUGER MODEL 44 AND MARLIN 336

	Ruger Model 44	Marlin 336
Type	Semi-automatic	Lever action
Designer	Bill Ruger	L.L. Hepburn, T.R. Robinson
Designed	1961	1948
Manufacturer	Sturm-Ruger	Marlin, Remington
Produced	1961 - 1985	1948 - present
Weight	2.7 kg (six lbs.)	3.18 kg (seven lbs.)
Length	94 cm (37 in.)	97 cm (38.5 in.)
Barrel length	47 cm (18.5 in.)	50.8 cm (20 in.)
Cartridge	44 Magnum	35 Remington
Action	Gas operated	Lever
Feed system	Four-round tubular magazine	Five-round tubular magazine

COMPARISON OF THE 44 MAGNUM AND 35 REMINGTON USING LEVEREVOLUTION AMMUNITION

		Velocity (fps)	Energy (ft/lb.)
44 Magnum 225gr Flex Tip	Muzzle	1,410	993
	100 Yards	1,104	609
35 Remington 200gr Flex Tip	Muzzle	2,225	2,198
	100 Yards	1,963	1,711



TRUBALL
DEEP PENETRATOR

FEDERAL
PREMIUM
AMMUNITION

VITAL SHOK

RIFLED SLUG
5 SHOTSHELLS
CARTOUCHES



SLUG FEST

Understanding the world of shotgun slugs
BY LOWELL STRAUSS

A lead slug left the 26-inch barrel of my Remington 870 at 1,587 feet per second. At that moment I was forcefully reminded of Newton's Third Law of Physics, "For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction," as I felt its tooth-rattling 2,500 foot-pounds of energy. That's similar recoil to what I would get from a 300 Win Mag or 375 H&H Mag rifle.

Slugs are the ammunition of choice in many situations. A great example being the shotgun hunting zones which exist around many Canadian cities. While slugs have impressive terminal ballistics at close range, a slug's shape (its ballistic coefficient) means it slows down fast, especially when compared to spitzer-style rifle bullets. This means they're safer to use in built-up areas. Also, in defence situations, dangerous encounters often occur at short ranges – distances where slugs are most effective. But finding the right type of slug ammunition is confusing, partly because there are many different options.

THE BASICS

There are two main types of shotgun slugs: full-bore slugs (technical name) for smoothbore barrels and sabot slugs for rifled barrels. Full-bore slugs are more commonly known as either Foster or Brenneke slugs, based on their design.

The defining characteristic of a Foster

slug is its deep, hollow base and rounded nose. Foster slugs can be rifled (helical ribs on the side of the slug) or not. Both types are shot through smoothbore barrels. Most Foster slugs loaded in today's commercial ammunition have rifling and are commonly called rifled slugs. The purpose for the rifling on a full-bore slug is twofold: it improves accuracy by correcting manufacturing irregularities, and the soft rifling deforms, allowing slugs to push through a choke. The hollow-based Foster slugs can safely be swaged down (squeezed) more in a choke than the solid Brenneke slugs. But the best accuracy is generally from cylinder bore (no choke) or improved cylinder chokes (slight constriction).

For bullet casters, Lyman makes a Foster slug mould without rifling.

Rifled slugs (both Foster and Brenneke) spin when shot out of a smoothbore barrel, but not enough to stabilize their flight. While this rotation contributes to a rifled slug's accuracy, it's not the whole story, and smooth Foster-style slugs don't spin at all! So how can these slugs fly true? The answer lies in their shape. Foster and rifled slugs have a weight-forward design and a hollow base like an airgun pellet – a shape that keeps its nose pointed forward, improving accuracy.

Brenneke slugs are cylindrical and have either a wadcutter or semi-wadcutter nose. All Brenneke slugs have rifling and

are intended for smoothbore barrels. Brenneke slugs have a felt or fibre wad permanently attached to the slug's base. The wad seals in expanding gases for more propulsion, and after the slug exits the muzzle, the wad causes drag that stabilizes the slug in flight.

Sabot slugs are smooth, more like a rifle bullet, and are encased in a plastic cup or wad – the sabot. Sabot slugs are fired through rifled barrels. The sabot engages the rifling as it travels down the barrel, gyroscopically stabilizing the slug in flight, like bullets from a centerfire rifle. As you'd expect, this significantly increases the potential accuracy and effective range.

12 GAUGE VERSUS 20 GAUGE

To pick the best tool for the job, we need to determine what we're asking the slug to do. Both 12- and 20-gauge slugs will easily kill a deer, but hunters may opt for the lighter recoil of a 20-gauge. It may also provide less meat loss and better accuracy (due to its lower recoil). A 20-gauge slug is an efficient hunting round and a popular choice in shotgun zones for big game.

The 12-gauge slug is all about stopping power. Heavy slugs punch through brush and carve massive wound channels in soft targets, making this an excellent choice for wilderness defence and dropping game fast when hunting. Shooters >



A rifled slug (top) and sabot slug (bottom).

often select a 12-gauge for its unequalled close-range stopping power. Thankfully, reduced recoil options are available for competition shooters.

REDUCED RECOIL SLUGS

High-volume shooters select reduced-recoil slugs for practice and competition. A lighter slug (typically one ounce) with a muzzle velocity of around 1,200 to 1,300 feet per second simply kicks less. Less recoil means faster follow-up shots. And your shoulder will thank you for days afterward.

A selection of reduced recoil ammunition is available for hunting, too. Expect more of a rainbow trajectory with these hunting slugs, but low-recoil slugs still

kill deer at slug-gun ranges. Killing a deer quickly depends on good shot placement, so if you can reliably punch a one-ounce slug through a deer's lungs, it's going down.

SHOTGUNS FOR SLUGS

For maximum versatility, it's possible to use a bird-hunting shotgun with slugs. But with only a bead sight, the range for accurate shooting is reduced. Rifled slugs should shoot OK through open chokes, but it's always a good practice to test different ammunition to see which shoots best.

If you want to extend your range, consider a slug-specific barrel. These may come equipped with open sights

or a cantilever for mounting a scope or red dot sight. These barrels are sold as either a smoothbore or rifled, depending on the type of slug ammunition you plan to shoot. Can you shoot a rifled slug through a rifled barrel? Yes, but you'll likely be disappointed in the results, which may include barrel leading and poor accuracy. If you're serious about hunting with slugs, it may be worthwhile considering a dedicated slug gun.

A RIFLE-LIKE SLUG GUN

If you want a shotgun to shoot slugs like a rifle shoots bullets, you need to build a shotgun with accuracy-enhancing features. Savage Arms manufactures bolt-action shotguns for hunters in both



A modern slug gun like this bolt-action Savage 212 has many of the accuracy-enhancing features of a rifle, including an adjustable trigger and free-floated barrel.

12 and 20-gauge, which include features usually reserved for modern rifles. Both the Savage 212 and 220 have a 22-inch, one-in-35-inch twist rate (1:24 for the 20-gauge), and a button-rifled, free-floating, heavy-walled carbon steel barrel for shooting sabot slugs. Other accuracy-enhancing features include an adjustable trigger, a bedded action, free-floating barrel and a two-round detachable magazine. Sabot slugs deliver maximum accuracy out of this rifled shotgun barrel.

ACCURACY

To find out how different types of ammunition perform relative to one another, I headed to the range with a bucket of slugs and high expectations. To do this, I

shot three different types of ammunition from Federal Ammunition – one sabot slug and two rifled slugs.

1. **Federal Premium's 12-gauge Vital Shok Trophy Copper:** This ammunition is a premium polymer-tipped sabot slug that I shot from my Savage 212 Slug Gun with its 3-9x42 rifle-scope. At 50 yards, my best five-shot group measured 2.2 inches. As I expected, the groups opened slightly at 100 yards to 2.9 inches. The extreme spread between the fastest and slowest shot was 67 feet per second, with an average muzzle velocity of 1,833 feet per second, slower than the advertised 2,000 feet per second.

For fun, I hung up a nine-inch steel gong (the size of a deer's vitals, and my measure of a clean kill). The slugs rang that gong from a distance of 200 yards with monotonous regularity. There's no doubt in my mind that a sabot slug in a purpose-built gun will drop a deer in its tracks out to 200 yards.

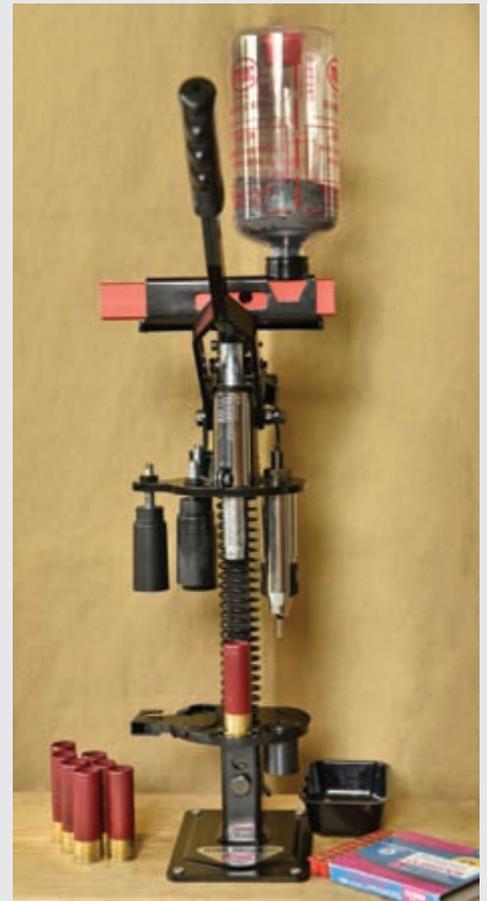
2. **Federal Premium's 12-gauge Truball rifled slug:** This is a high-velocity (1,600 feet per second), hard-hitting slug, and according to the box it's designed for thin-skinned game such as white-tail deer. I launched these out of my older-than-the-hills Winchester Ranger Model 120

shotgun. The ammunition's average velocity at 1,578 feet per second came close to its advertised speed. I was impressed with this slug; even with my gun's open sights, I shot a 2.5-inch, five-shot group at 50 yards. The group opened to 5.5 inches at 100 yards, but I feel that my nebulous sight alignment at 100 yards had more to do with the group size than the ammunition. These results are consistent with other tests of rifled slugs through a smoothbore barrel.

3. Federal Premium's 12-gauge Truball Deep Penetrator rifled slug: At 1,350 feet per second, this was the slowest slug ammunition I tested. The slug is cast from a high-antimony alloy, which makes it less prone to deformation and capable of delivering deeper penetration. Using my Winchester Ranger Model 120 again, accuracy was

on par with the faster Truball ammunition; my best five-shot groups being 3.2 inches at 50 yards and 6.1 inches at 100. No doubt, it'd be lights-out for any deer or bear inside of 100 yards. Using a gun with a scope would likely result in tighter groups, but beyond 125 yards the trajectory and terminal ballistics fall off rapidly for both the rifled slugs tested.

As you can see, at 50 yards and closer a shotgun slug is an accurate and deadly choice. It's easy to understand why many backcountry camps have a shotgun stocked with slugs just in case. It's also reasonable to expect a slug to perform well for hunting out to 100 yards, especially when equipped with a scope. A dedicated slug gun makes good sense if you regularly hunt in a shotgun zone, and its ability to take ethical shots beyond 100 yards may mean the difference between tagging a deer or not. 🏆



MEC 600 SLUGGER

Shotgun slug ammunition is expensive, ranging in price from \$1 per shell for the cheap stuff to as much as \$4 for premium ammunition. If you're a high-volume shooter, you may want to consider handloading custom slug ammunition.

The MEC 600 Slugger is an efficient single-stage loader that allows a shooter to reload both full-bore and sabot slugs. The press is built on the frame of the popular MEC 600 Jr. Mark V shotshell reloader. Its modified setup, specifically for slug reloading, eliminates the shot bottle while adding a sixth station that creates a factory-finish final crimp. For best results, MEC recommends using straight-walled hulls such as Federal, Cheddite, Fioocchi and Rio.

The press is available in 12 and 20 gauge and is adjustable to load both two-inch and three-inch shells. An experienced loader can produce 100 rounds per hour. If you buy reloading components in bulk, substantial cost savings are possible. In addition to saving money, you can create custom loads optimized for your shotgun and shooting sport.

In Canada, the MEC Slugger and slug reloading components are available through Alberta-based Bilozir Shotgun Reloading: www.bilozir.net, (403) 938-6066.





THE DLASK ARMS TUF-22

A convenient marriage of rifle & magazine

BY DEAN ROXBY

Ruger's 10/22 was first introduced in 1964 and has been in continuous production ever since, with an estimated five million made. The patent has long since run out, allowing others to make their own versions and Dlak Arms of Delta, BC, has been doing so for a number of years. Called the DAR-22, its receiver is made from 7075-T6 aluminum alloy, it includes an integral Picatinny rail and has a Mil-Spec Type 3 hard anodized black finish. The receivers are all CNC-made in-house.

Their custom receiver is a significant improvement over the economical Ruger, and now they've upgraded it again. Called the TUF-22, it also starts with a 7075-T6 aluminum billet. The most notable difference between it and the DAR-22 is the "stabilizing rib" built into the magazine, and the matching slot in the TUF receiver. This rib is designed to eliminate the side-to-side wobble of the magazine in the mag well. Dlak Arms feels their design improves accuracy and feeding, with an additional bonus thrown in.

If you own a 10/22 of any sort in Canada, you will no doubt recall the colossal feces-storm that erupted several years ago when the RCMP ruled that because the Ruger Charger pistol used the same



magazine as the 10/22 rifle, all 10/22 mags had to be limited to 10 rounds. But since the TUF-22 uses a unique magazine that cannot fit into the Charger mag well, it is not subject to the 10-round limit. Dlak has contracted with a US manufacturer to supply 25-round mags for this project, with price expected to be only slightly more than a standard 10/22 aftermarket product.

Dlak offers several buying options for the TUF-22, ranging from a bare receiver to a match-grade shooting system. The bare receiver option allows you to build up your idea of the perfect rifle from

the multitude of aftermarket parts available for the 10/22. Alternately, you could transfer all your original Ruger parts from an old rifle to a more rigid receiver. If you want to go all in, there is the match-grade rifle with a carbon-fibre wound barrel, and a one-piece aluminum stock from MDT. Described as a precision chassis, this is a collaboration between Dlak and MDT. The chassis uses a rear hold down block to firmly lock the receiver into the stock.

Another intriguing option is for those that already own a 10/22 (everybody!), Dlak is also able to alter existing 10/22 rifles. Yes, Dlak is willing and able to modify your existing receiver to accept their new ribbed mags. They get to sell more mags, you get the dual benefits of a more stable feed system, as well as a legal 25-round magazine. Please note, they will absolutely not alter a Charger pistol to take these mags. Don't ask.

Dlak expects to be shipping by the time this issue appears. 🍀

MORE INFORMATION

Dlak Arms Corp.

www.dlaskarms.com

MDT: www.MDTtac.com



Lyman's MAG 25 Digital Melting Furnace.

Lead wheel weights are a good source of scrap lead. The Lyman Mag 25 Digital Melting Furnace melts these weights fast.



LYMAN'S MAG 25 DIGITAL MELTING FURNACE

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

To be the best takes practice, and lots of it! And that means thousands of rounds down range. In the words of the world's fastest shooter, Jerry Miculek, "You get to the next level by being the first one on the range and the last one to leave." Feeding pistols, shotguns and rifles that much ammunition gets expensive, and as shooters, we're always looking to save money. Casting slugs and bullets from scrap lead is one way to shoot more for less.

Since 1925, Lyman has fueled the shooting sports by manufacturing innovative casting and reloading tools and sharing the how-to knowledge in their casting and reloading manuals. The introduction of the Lyman Mag 25 Digital Melting Furnace moves casting into the 21st century.

At the heart of the furnace is an advanced digital thermostat. The controls are easy. Set the desired tempera-

ture value using the keypad, up to a maximum of 850 degrees Fahrenheit, and watch as the temperature climbs. With its 850-watt heating element, it climbs quickly! The actual temperature inside the pot is displayed in bright red numbers on the display. The controller keeps the pot within 10 degrees Fahrenheit of the set value. Adding more lead drops the temperature, momentarily. The best part is the digital controller, which keeps the lead at a steady temperature. No more watching a thermometer and manually adjusting the thermostat.

The Mag 25 has the features high-volume bullet casters are looking for. Its 25-pound capacity is large enough for extended casting sessions. Its powerful heating element melts fresh alloy fast. The furnace is a bottom-pour design with a universal mould guide. At the top of the pot is a warming shelf for

pre-heating bullet moulds, the fastest way to high-quality, wrinkle-free bullets. The furnace also includes a built-in storage compartment, which comes in handy for holding moulds when not in use.

The features I like most about the Mag 25 are the digital display and precise temperature control. More and more of today's wheel weights (a good source of lead) are made of zinc (not suitable for bullets). The good news is, zinc's melting point is higher than lead, so even if one of these modern weights gets tossed in the pot, it will just float to the surface for easy removal.

If you're looking for a new casting furnace, consider the Lyman Mag 25 Digital Melting Furnace. It costs a bit more than a basic pot, but with its extra features I feel it's well worth the price. For more information, see www.lyman-products.com. 

THE ANTI-GUN CFAC

BY CHRIS MCGARRY

Perhaps my background as a journalist has cemented within me the belief that those who have a blind agenda toward certain issues, and have shown they can't be impartial, must be excluded from influencing politicians in making laws. You won't find a better example of this than anti-gun activist Nathalie Provost.

You see, last year, Ms. Provost, a spokesperson for the gun control organization PolySeSouvient, accepted the job of vice-chair with the Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee (CFAC). She was given the position on the condition that she not lobby the federal government with regards to the additional restrictions on firearms she wishes to see implemented and forced onto

law-abiding Canadian gun owners. In order to be a member of this panel, she relinquished her status as a registered lobbyist. In fact, a signed CFAC agreement stipulates that Ms. Provost not "engage in lobbying activities or work as a registered lobbyist on behalf of an entity making submissions or representations to the government of Canada on issues relating to the mandate of this committee." In other words, in order to be impartial, she cannot influence the federal government in any way.

Less than a year later, Ms. Provost broke this agreement when she sent a letter to various members of parliament, as well as the public safety minister, detailing a wish list of gun-control measures she would like

legislated. This is clearly an example of conflict of interest, one which has the potential to affect the lives of millions of citizens who've done nothing more than enjoy their hard-earned property. Four months after sending the letter, Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale introduced bill C-71 into the House of Commons, proposed legislation which includes five of PolySeSouvient's recommendations.

This is a blatant violation of ethics, and it's important to expose what's happened. Ms. Provost, one of a few activists who continue to dance on the graves of the 14 women who were murdered almost three decades ago, has violated her agreement and must either resign or be forced off the CFAC. ❗

TRUDEAU'S APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE 'CANADIAN FIREARMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE'



Showing Up: It's important for gun owners to get involved and have their voices heard.



SHOWING UP

The importance of being there

BY ROBERT BRACKEN, NFA ATLANTIC REGIONAL DIRECTOR

It's not often enough that firearm owners and their supporters have the opportunity to personally confront legislators about new, potentially drastic firearms law in a public forum; especially when one of them is an MP at the forefront of such proposed law. But such was the case on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at the Kin Centre in Miramichi, NB.

The NFA received an e-mail from the Miramichi Sportsman's Club, advertising a public meeting with local MP Pat Finnigan and Parliamentary Secretary to Public Safety, MP Mark Holland (Ajax, Ont). I replied that I'd like to attend and included the NFA's brief to Public Safety about C-71 as an attachment. The club liked what they saw and invited us to have a seat at the table. We were invited to present our brief in an abbreviated form and be a part of the discussion, which would include some questions for the local MP, Mr. Finnigan, and a question-and-answer session with the parliamentary secretary. We gratefully accepted.

Members of the club, Lance McMillan worked with the MP's office, scheduling the visit, and Adam Sulis arranged for the venue, as well as getting the word out about the event. André Hachey, the club president, would serve

as the host and moderator, doing a fine job. Special thanks to all of them.

Although 128 chairs were set up, only about 45 people attended, including the MPs, speakers and organizers. After meeting André, Adam and the MPs, we took our places at the table at the front of the room. As with most Q&A forums, a microphone was placed front and centre for the audience to use if they had a question.

André introduced us. The format consisted of a statement outlining the reason we were there, and the problems we saw in C-71. I spoke first, presenting our edited NFA submission, then asked pre-submitted questions to the two MPs. These pre-submitted questions were an acknowledgment that MP Finnigan isn't very knowledgeable about firearms, so, rather than blindside him, the club wanted to give him the opportunity to do some "homework" before the show. Quite thoughtful, under the circumstances.

I began by referencing Dr. Cailin Langmann's peer-reviewed study about homicide rates in Canada and gun controls, which was published in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. I quickly summarized a few of our main points in the brief, then expanded on each point, and critiqued parts of Bill

C-71: the issues of transfers (reference numbers), classification issues, licensing, and the ATT. In particular, when I talked about classification, I mentioned our criticism of what was probably to come. I held up a copy of the May 12, 2010, RCMP "secret" document which details their wish list of firearms classification/registration issues. Keeping it brief, I wanted the two MPs to have time to respond to questions and be taken to task from the floor as much as possible. The NFA brief is available online, at www.nfa.ca.

MP Finnigan did the best he could with the pre-submitted questions, which moderator André would read aloud. People were really there to grill Holland, as he's often seen as hostile to gun owners. His history includes introducing the motion to kill CPC MP Candice Hoepfner's private member's Bill C-391 (to end the long gun registry) in the House of Commons in 2010, when the CPC had a minority government. Holland's motion succeeded.

MP Holland then spoke. He said the provisions of C-71 were something they ran on in their 2015 election platform. Then in response to a question about the proposal that a specific ATT be required for taking a handgun to a gunsmith, Holland replied that now



A lot is at stake for Canadian gun owners, and we need to make sure our representatives in government know where we stand on these issues.

people can drive around with restricted guns in their vehicles and they don't have to provide an explanation for that. A question was also asked about the integrity of the information acquired by the RCMP, especially in light of past security breaches. The government talking point about information being available to CFOs only if there's "judicial permission" was offered.

One gent in the audience named Chris asked questions about firearm classification, but he could never get a straight answer from Holland. The MP would offer platitudes about needing to be "flexible," and used an example of someone being charged with a Criminal Code charge and making sure the law was flexible enough. It was puzzling, to say the least. He mentioned the use of judicial review if someone felt the law wasn't being properly (fairly?) applied. Holland commented that the RCMP dealt with firearm classifications 8,000 times per year, saying, "If they make a decision, they are responsible." Chris wasn't accepting this and asked why not have civilian oversight? Holland referenced the CFAC (Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee), but that, of course, includes some extremely anti-gun people. Again, one of Holland's

springboards on this issue was that if someone thought the RCMP was not complying with the Criminal Code they could apply for a judicial review. These comments were later ridiculed by some senior members of the club, who weren't buying it.

Holland remarked about having consultations with various firearms owners and groups, but he seemed to spend an inordinate amount of time discussing early childhood intervention, which C-71 does nothing about. Regarding licensing checks going back more than five years, Holland made comments about suicide and domestic violence, which may not manifest itself for many years. At one point, Holland mentioned that, "With a knife, you have to chase someone down to stab them. It's easier to establish that a crime was committed." That is, deliberate, as opposed to someone claiming an accidental shooting. "Crimes of passion" were another talking point for the parliamentary secretary. Given the current fear of an impending semi-auto ban, Chris asked if a semi-auto ban is planned. Holland replied, "No, absolutely not."

Later, I had the opportunity to speak again. I referenced suicide rates, and the issue of "substitution." As Dr. Gary Mauser's research has proven so well,

the overall suicide rates remain the same, but with further gun controls, the methods simply change. I also pointed out that in the 1970s, full auto was the bogeyman, but now, it's semi-auto. I also referenced historical, anti-gun commentary from Allan Rock and Sharon Carstairs of C-68 fame, juxtaposing that with current comments from MPs Damoff, Holland and Nault. I made numerous other points and finished by saying that laws are a guide, but what protects us is the behaviour of others. Loud applause followed. Although I may have been playing to a partisan crowd, they weren't fools. This would be the last word.

MP Finnigan stayed around for a while and spoke to us. Mr. Holland had a plane to catch, I believe. People were pleased with the result, or so they told me. I met some very determined gun owners who I think strengthened their resolve after this meeting. But the important thing is that they all showed up to make a difference. It was both an honour, and a pleasure to represent the NFA and gun owners at the event. I encouraged people there to get involved as much as they can, join a political party, and join their respective Electoral District Associations and be involved in both policy and candidate selection. ▶



DECEIVING THE UNINFORMED

The lies behind Bill C-71

BY GARY MAUSER

Bill C-71 scapegoats law-abiding Canadians instead of focusing on criminal violence. Based on a farrago of lies, this bill recreates an ineffective, but expensive, back-door gun registry. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, Bill C-71 may be law.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale justified this crack-down on law-abiding firearms owners in Bill C-71 by saying, "The bottom line is that we have a problem of increasing gun violence in Canada. It's not a problem we can blame on other countries, because police in British Columbia, Toronto, Calgary, Regina, Ottawa and other places now confirm that most guns used to commit crimes in Canada are domestically sourced."

THE FIRST LIE IS THAT GANGSTERS GET THEIR GUNS FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES.

This bogus claim is based entirely on secret changes to the traditional definition of "crime gun." The RCMP hid this change to give a false impression. Thanks to Bob Zimmer, Conservative MP, Dennis Young and I were able to

finally uncover a secret report that revealed the new, inflated definition.

The traditional definition required that to be considered a "crime gun," a gun had to be used (or suspected of being used) to commit a violent crime. The new definition now includes administrative crimes as well (e.g., firearms found at the homes of suicides and absent-minded PAL holders). Judging from the minister's comments, it's not clear if he is aware that the definition has been changed.

Other than the secret police reports, the police have not produced any evidence to corroborate that the source of crime guns has changed. The only support is the ersatz definition.

The traditional definition of "crime gun" is a gun used in actual, violent crime. A "crime gun" is any firearm:

- That is used, or has been used in a criminal offence;
- That is obtained, possessed or intended to be used to facilitate criminal activity;
- That has a removed or obliterated

serial number.

This definition was standard in Canada before 2007 and is still in use by the FBI and the British Home Office. Now, the RCMP has secretly changed the definition – to include "illegally acquired."

"A crime gun is "any firearm that is illegally acquired, suspected to have been used in crime (includes found firearms), has an obliterated serial number, or has been illegally modified (e.g., barrel significantly shortened)."

"Illegally acquired" significantly expands the category "crime gun" to include guns confiscated for any administrative violation (e.g., unsafe storage), as well as guns recovered from homes of suicides (even when the suicide did not involve shooting). This means that "found guns" are now considered to be "crime guns." "Found guns" have not necessarily been used in a crime, but are guns confiscated by police during or after a contact. Any kind of contact.

Not content with changing the definition, the RCMP has vigorously attempt-

ed to keep the new definition from the public. There would appear to be no good reason for this action. Perhaps the police bureaucracy has a natural bent towards secrecy and is not keen to have its decisions challenged. The RCMP systematically refused repeated FOID requests, only finally acquiescing to the request of Bob Zimmer, Conservative MP.

This new definition equates paper crimes with criminal violence. A firearm unsafely stored is a "crime gun." When police attend the scene of a suicide – even by hanging – if a firearm is found in a closet, the gun is now counted as a "crime gun" if the owner's PAL has lapsed.

Available evidence refutes the lie that gangsters get their guns from domestic sources. Instead, smuggling is repeatedly found to be the main source of guns used in violent crime.

70 per cent "crime guns" smuggled (Toronto Police Chief Bill Blair)

99 per cent of "crime guns" smuggled (Vancouver Police)

Two per cent to 16 per cent "crime guns" stolen from Canadian owners (Toronto Police Services)

THE SECOND LIE IS THAT "DOMESTIC SOURCES" MEANS LAW-ABIDING PAL HOLDERS.

Minister Goodale uses the phrase "domestic sources" to justify cracking down on law-abiding PAL holders. By doing so, he overlooks the large pool of firearms with questionable legality that exists in Canada. Very few of the "found guns" that police now use to bloat the figure of "crime guns" they recover actually belong to PAL holders.

More than one million gun owners remain outside the system. They are paper criminals. In 2001, when firearms owners were required to apply for a firearms licence, between one-third and one-half of then-law-abiding Canadian gun owners declined to apply. Official estimates of civilian gun owners ranged from 3.3 million to over 4.5 million in 2001. However, fewer than two million licences were issued. Tightening up laws on lawful owners does not touch the problem of crime guns.

According to Statistics Canada, law-abiding Canadians logically cannot be an important source of "crime guns" – either by theft or straw purchase. At the height of the long-gun registry, just nine per cent of firearms involved in homicides

were registered (135 out of the 1,485 firearms homicides from 2003 to 2010).

THE THIRD LIE IS THAT PUBLIC GUN OWNERSHIP IS ITSELF A THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Canada has a gang problem, not a gun problem. Statistics Canada reports that there were 223 firearms-related homicides in 2016, the bulk of which (141 of the 223) were gang-related. Two-thirds of gun murders are gang related. The lion's share is in bigger cities: 121 of the 141 of gang-related homicides involving firearms were committed in metropolitan areas. Gang crime is increasing at a shocking rate. Gang violence hit an all-time low in 2013 but has rebounded since. This accounts for the increase in gun crime since 2013.

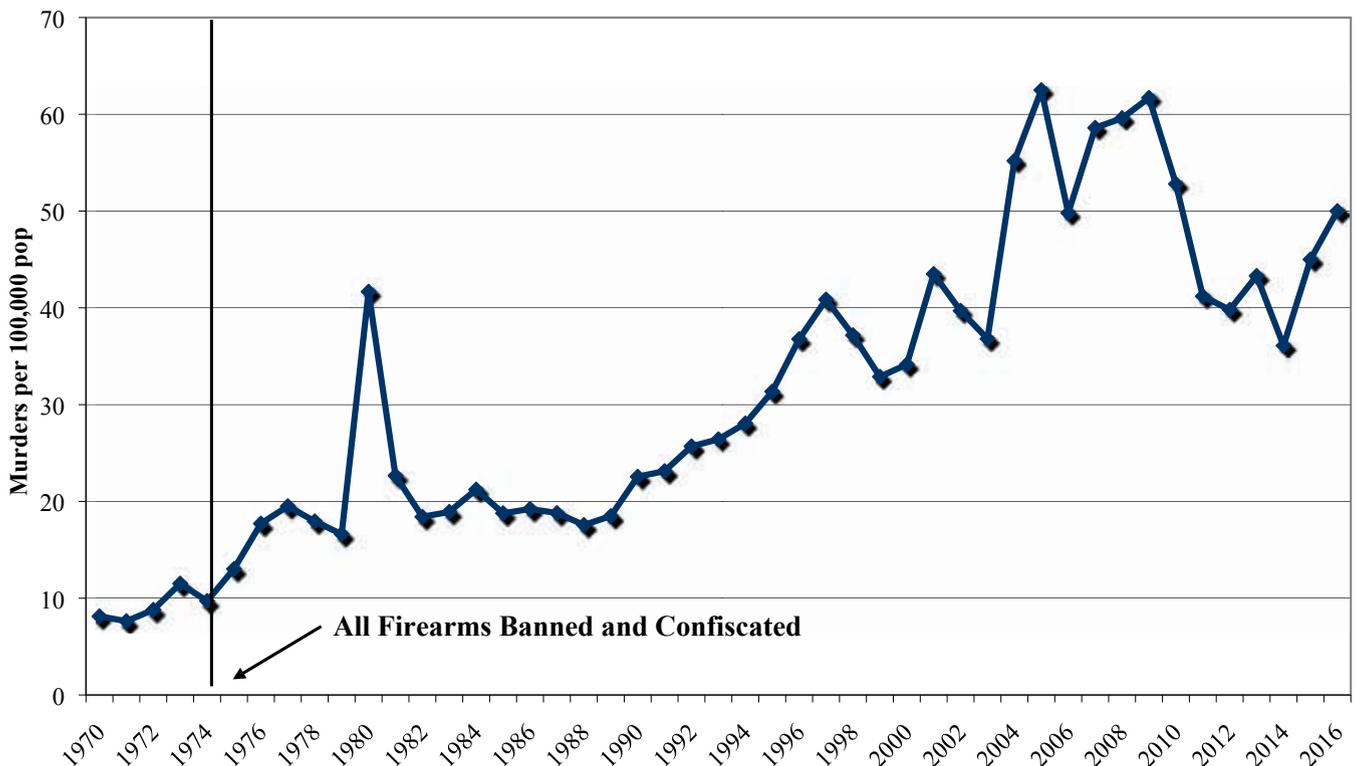
Public gun ownership is not linked to criminal violence. Based on Statistics Canada data, PAL holders are much less apt to commit murder than are other Canadians.

HOMICIDE RATE

PAL holders - 0.60 per 100,000 licence holders

Canada - 1.85 per 100,000 people in general population

Trend in Jamaican Murder Rate



Source: U West Indies and World Bank



Available evidence refutes the lie that gangsters get their guns from domestic sources. Instead, smuggling is repeatedly found to be the main source of guns used in violent crime.

If greater access to guns caused higher crime rates, then rural Canada would have higher rates of criminal violence than urban Canada. Canadians who live outside of Census Metropolitan Areas have more guns per capita than do urban Canadians, but firearm homicide rates are lower outside CMAAs than in bigger cities (see table A).

Public gun ownership encourages responsible behaviour. Guns can be misused, but they can also be used for good. Teaching proper firearms handling at a young age instills good character. A key research study of adolescents in Rochester, NY, found that youth who learned about firearms from their parents had the lowest levels of delinquency (see table B).

Professor Gary Kleck, after reviewing 41 research studies, tentatively concluded, "...that higher gun ownership rates do not cause higher crime rates, including homicide rates." He found that none of the studies that were technically competent, i.e., those that did a better job of addressing the key methodological problems, supported the more-guns-cause-more crime hypothesis.

THE FOURTH LIE IS THAT MORE RESTRICTIONS ON GENERAL GUN OWNERSHIP WILL STOP CRIMINAL VIOLENCE.

Since general gun ownership is not a

threat to public safety, it follows that even draconian gun bans will fail to stop firearms murders. Back in 1974, Jamaica banned all firearms. It didn't even slow down the murder rate.

Reviews of American research on gun control corroborate the finding that general restrictions on firearms ownership are not effective in limiting violent crime. The Centers for Disease Control, in a massive study, found the evidence was insufficient to determine the effectiveness of a wide variety of gun control laws that focused on reducing general availability.

CONCLUSIONS

Bill C-71 ignores violent criminality to harass law-abiding Canadians. Canada has a gang problem, not a gun problem. By conflating guns and gangs, the government is attempting to fool the public that it is doing something by increasing the regulatory burden for PAL holders and lawful retailers.

The government has not provided solid justification why more regulations would improve public safety. In truth, the government has never been able to justify that the present regulatory system is effective in preventing or minimizing violence and consequently the current push towards increasingly complex regulations merely compounds the misdirection.

Other than police claims, which are based on a secret, ersatz definition, there is no support for a change in the source of crime guns. Increased regulatory complexity does not mean greater public safety. Additional rules merely increase the work load for the Firearms Program staff, which can only harass legitimate owners and decrease public safety. When will the government get serious about dealing with gang crime? 🚩

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TABLE A

Census	Outside Metropolitan Areas	CMAAs
% households with firearms	13 per cent	30 per cent
% firearms used in homicide	33 per cent	25 per cent

TABLE B

	Street crime	Drug use
Learned about guns from parents	14 per cent	13 per cent
Learned about guns from peers	74 per cent	41 per cent
No firearms	24 per cent	14 per cent



Team NFA

By Matt Neumann

What Have Firearms Done For You?



If you are reading this, you likely already have a special connection with your firearms. We all have reasons for spending time shooting. Why else would we invest our time and money meticulously cleaning, handloading, tinkering, testing ammunition, analyzing equipment and experimenting with different gadgets? We all have unique reasons why we maintain a passion for our tools and craft. I'm sure you don't need convincing, but here's my chance to share what firearms have done for me. Whether it's healthy lifestyle choices, occupational opportunities or having the chance to share experiences, skills and lessons with our children and young shooters, we can all brainstorm a few reasons why we maintain our passion and are thankful for our freedoms.

Above all, I value health. I respect health by taking care of my body, mind, emotions and spirit, but I am a firm believer in all health coming together to contribute to a strengthening, upward self-improvement spiral. With my background as a biathlete (cross-country skiing and rifle marksmanship), physical health has taken over my life 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for the past decade. I owe my world-class fitness and healthy lifestyle to stumbling across the Otway biathlon shooting range in Prince George, BC, when I was 10 years old. While millions of people turn to their phones, tobacco, liquor or substance abuse as a means of escape and stress relief, I am adamant about focusing on healthy ways to keep the mind and body engaged, challenged and entertained by having fun!

Biathlon has taught me how to persevere through physical/mental/emotional fatigue, terrible weather and bad results. It has proven to me the value of passionately committing 100 per cent to a goal and developing a program to achieve it. I have improved my ability to focus and objectively reflect on past performances and acknowledge areas for improvement. I have developed an ability to separate myself from intense situations and relax when needed. It has emphasized the need for detailed goal setting, execution, and maintaining a positive mindset regardless of the circumstance. It has shaped an indestructible focus for intense periods of time, whether the goal is a smooth one-second trigger squeeze or the quadrennial Olympics years into the future. Most importantly, my shooting sport has created a respect and passion for the outdoors, healthy living, competition, my competitors, my teammates and mastering my discipline.

I never imagined my Olympic pursuit in biathlon morphing into an occupation outside of being a professional athlete. I'm thankful that it did, because I now have the opportunity to share my passion with dozens of young, enthusiastic shooters. As my commitment and interest escalated with each year of competition, I have had an overwhelming obligation and desire to make sure others have similar opportunities. Unexpectedly, as I wrap up my competitive goals this season, I am now transitioning to full-time biathlon coaching. With 18 years of specific shooting and skiing experience, it would be a waste not to share and contribute in some capacity. I now coach

with the largest biathlon club in Canada. Based out of Calgary, it has over 70 committed athletes in the program. There is an undeniable satisfaction in giving back to your sport and the community that supported you along your path. It is an honour to promote the sport of biathlon and healthy living in my hometown, my province and my beautiful country. I have the chance to introduce cross-country skiing, marksmanship and biathlon as a lifelong sport, promote healthy living and lifestyle choices, and be a positive leader and role model. That's a pretty good day at the office.

Starting with your parents, your friends, school teachers, coaches, teammates, mentors and role models have shaped who you are. I have been so fortunate to be surrounded by positive, goal centered, like-minded people as I grew up in the biathlon and shooting community. Transitioning to coaching in order to give back to younger versions of myself now seems intuitive. Anyone getting outdoors (especially into the mountains) is a positive thing. Nearly 30 kids (40 per cent of which are girls) start our .22 club program each year, and this means working with a wide range of ages, goals, personalities and abilities. As a club coach, I intend to offer opportunity for improvement and experiences that will endorse making healthy decisions. We execute sport-specific drills in training and create practice plans that present high-level technique and shooting concepts, but the end goal is simply health. We teach athletes training fundamentals, racing tactics and goal-setting skills in the hopes of improving them as both high-performance athletes and as healthy, contributing community members.

So, do we need firearms? Firearms have undeniably and drastically changed my life for the better and hopefully allowed me to change hundreds of other's lives for the better, as well. Through participation in biathlon, I have had a unique path with a clear purpose and healthy lifestyle. I have had unlimited opportunity through shooting and had the pleasure of sharing and giving back in a meaningful way. My first coaches did the same meaningful thing for me: they introduced me to the sport they love. 



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Transportation Of Firearms: Main Rules



Any and all firearms, of whatever category, must be unloaded while being transported.

Hunting season means an increasing number of events involving the transportation of a firearm, and a corresponding increase in the number of encounters with police, each and every one of which entails a risk of being caught breaching any of the multiple technical rules governing transportation of firearms. As with most rules enacted in relation to firearms, the observance of those rules is sanctioned through criminal law. Indeed, non-observance of the transportation rules is a criminal offence under Section 86(2) of the *Criminal Code*. Hopefully, this article will remind you of the rules that must be followed and keep you out of trouble. This article will deal solely with firearms transportation rules applicable to individual firearm users. Businesses are governed by a different set of rules.

WHAT IS TRANSPORTATION OF A FIREARM?

Legislation does not define what constitutes “transportation” of a firearm, and there are, to my knowledge, no reported cases that deal with the precise meaning of the word “transportation” in respect of firearms. However, an analysis of the applicable legislation provides clues.

In short, a firearm is being transported when it is being taken from point A to point B, and it is neither in use, nor in temporary storage. Usually, but not necessarily, transportation is accomplished through the use of a motor vehicle. However, it can arguably also take place on foot, on horseback, or by way of a non-motorized vehicle such as a canoe or bicycle. By way of example, when an individual steps out of a parked car and walks over to the gun range with a pistol case in hand,

that individual is still transporting his firearms. Transportation rules continue to apply.

Similarly, transportation rules apply when a vehicle is temporarily stopped, whether it is attended or not, and a firearm remains on board the vehicle.

GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL FIREARMS

Any and all firearms, of whatever category, must be unloaded while being transported. A firearm is unloaded if there is no cartridge in its chamber, or in a magazine that is either part of, attached to or inserted in the firearm. There is a special rule applicable to a muzzleloader being transported between hunting sites, insofar as it may remain loaded as long as its primer cap or flint is removed during transportation.

All required paperwork, such as a firearms licence, registration certificates, authorizations to transport and authorizations to carry, whenever applicable, should be on hand and readily available. Law enforcement agents are entitled to request a firearms user to produce such documents for review. If they cannot be readily provided, a law enforcement agent may seize the subject firearms, and the individual to whom they belong has 14 days to produce the appropriate paperwork and recover the seized firearms. After the 14 days have elapsed, a police officer may apply to a court for an order of confiscation and forfeiture of the firearms. Although not having the required paperwork on hand is not, in and of itself, an offence, it may lead to significant trouble and aggravation. It is always advisable to carry all required paperwork whenever firearms are being used or transported.

SPECIFIC RULES APPLICABLE TO NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS

A non-restricted firearm may be transported unlocked in any part of a vehicle as long as it is unloaded. There is no requirement for the firearm to be locked or out of sight, as long as the



All restricted and prohibited firearms must be trigger locked and placed in a closed, locked container.

SPECIFIC RULES APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN PROHIBITED FIREARMS

If the prohibited firearm is a fully automatic firearm, its bolt or bolt carrier (if removable with reasonable facility) must be removed during transportation, in addition to following all other applicable rules.

TRANSPORTATION OF ANTIQUE FIREARMS

Although, in many respects, antique firearms are not considered firearms by applicable legislation, transportation and storage rules are nevertheless applicable to all antique firearms. In addition to being unloaded, the transportation rules applicable to antique firearms by and large mirror those applicable to non-restricted and restricted firearms, depending upon whether the firearm is a long gun or a handgun.

FINAL WORDS OF WISDOM TO ALL HUNTERS

In many jurisdictions, it is illegal to discharge a firearm from certain roads, or within a certain distance of a road (usually, but not necessarily, within 10 metres). Unbeknownst to most hunters, it is also illegal to load or handle a loaded firearm in a place where such firearm cannot be legally discharged. Hence, if you stop your vehicle on such a road, you must step away from the road, at least the required distance, before you load your firearm. The same is true if you must cross such a road while hunting. In that case, you must unload the firearm before crossing the road and reload it after crossing, while complying with the specified distance. Thankfully, these rules generally only apply to public roads and certain rural roads are exempt. Nevertheless, in order to stay on the right side of the law, it is advisable to verify local provincial and municipal legislation.

Finally, some provinces have rules stating that hunting firearms must be transported in a closed case, at certain times. The purpose of these rules is arguably to prevent hunting outside of legal hours (also known as poaching). Again, it is recommended that you familiarize with the rules of the province in which you plan on hunting. 

vehicle is attended. As to whether it is a good idea to transport a firearm in plain sight in the open bed of a pick-up truck in a busy area with multiple stop signs and traffic lights, it is obviously not. Indeed, a person who acts in such way could be charged with negligent transportation of a firearm, under Section 86(1) of the *Criminal Code*.

When a vehicle is stopped and left unattended, even for a brief moment (such as while paying for fuel after a fill-up on the way to the hunting camp), the firearm must be in the trunk of the vehicle (if the vehicle is so equipped) and such trunk (or other secure storage compartment) must be locked. Alternatively, if the vehicle is not so equipped, the firearm must be inside of the vehicle, out of sight, and the vehicle must be locked. When hunting in a remote wilderness area, a trigger lock is an acceptable substitute when the unattended vehicle is not equipped with a trunk or cannot be locked. The latter rule is likely meant primarily for transportation on board of ATVs, motorboats and snowmobiles.

Although the law does not require that a non-restricted firearm be locked while being transported, there are circumstances where it may be prudent to do so. Indeed, if a passenger of the vehicle does not hold a firearms licence of the appropriate class, that person

cannot be left alone with the unlocked firearms in the vehicle when the licence holder is not present.

SPECIFIC RULES APPLICABLE TO RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED FIREARMS

In this instance, the “double lock” rule applies at all times. All restricted and prohibited firearms must be trigger locked and placed in a closed, locked container (case). The container must be made of an opaque material and be of sufficient strength that it cannot be readily broken into or accidentally opened during transportation. If the vehicle is left unattended, the locked container must be in the trunk of the vehicle (if the vehicle is so equipped) and such trunk (or other secure storage compartment) must be locked. Alternatively, if the vehicle is not so equipped, the locked container must be inside of the vehicle, out of sight, and the vehicle must be locked.

Remember that restricted and prohibited firearms may only be transported between places authorized by a chief firearms officer, pursuant to an Authorization to Transport (whether in traditional form, or as a condition attached to a licence), via the reasonably most direct route. Non-required detours and stopovers are never a good idea while transporting restricted or prohibited firearms.



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Le Transport Des Armes À Feu: Principales Règles



Aucune arme à feu ne peut être transportée alors qu'elle est chargée. Cette règle ne souffre aucune exception.

L'arrivée de la saison de la chasse apporte avec elle un nombre accru de contrôles des utilisateurs d'armes à feu par les forces de l'ordre. Chacun de ces contrôles présente le risque de constats d'infraction relativement aux règles qui régissent le transport des armes à feu. Comme c'est le cas pour la plupart des aspects des règles applicables aux armes à feu, leur sanction se fait par le truchement du droit criminel. En effet, la violation de ces règles constitue une infraction criminelle en vertu de l'article 86 (2) du Code Criminel. J'espère que cet article saura vous remémorer les règles applicables et qu'il vous permettra de vous tenir loin des tribunaux. Seules les règles applicables aux individus seront discutées dans le cadre de cet article. Des règles parfois différentes s'appliquent aux entreprises.

QU'ENTEND-ON PAR TRANSPORTER UNE ARME À FEU?

La législation est muette quant au sens du mot transporter, relativement aux armes à feu et, à ma connaissance, il n'existe pas de jurisprudence ayant eu à décider du sens à donner à cette expression. Toutefois, une exégèse de la législation fournit de nombreux indices en ce sens.

En bref, une arme à feu est transportée lorsqu'on l'amène du Point A au Point B, et qu'elle ni entreposée temporairement, ni utilisée. La plupart du temps, le transport s'effectue au moyen d'un véhicule moteur. Toutefois, le transport peut également s'effectuer à cheval, à pied, ou au moyen d'un véhicule non-motorisé, tel qu'une bicyclette ou un canot. Par exemple, un individu qui parcourt à pied la distance qui sépare son véhicule du champ

de tir, avec son coffret à pistolets en main, est encore en phase de transport et les règles afférentes continuent de s'appliquer.

Par ailleurs, une arme à feu est en transport, même si un véhicule est immobilisé temporairement, qu'il soit ou non surveillé, si l'arme à feu demeure à bord du véhicule.

RÈGLES APPLICABLES À TOUTES LES ARMES À FEU

Aucune arme à feu ne peut être transportée alors qu'elle est chargée. Cette règle ne souffre aucune exception. Une arme à feu est considérée comme étant chargée si une cartouche est insérée dans sa chambre ou dans un chargeur qui est soit inséré, ou intégré à l'arme à feu. Quant aux armes à chargement par la bouche, elles sont considérées comme étant non chargées, si l'amorce ou le silex est retiré.

Tous les permis et autorisations (e.g. PAF, certificats d'enregistrement, autorisations de transport et de port, si applicables) devraient être facilement accessibles. Les agents de la paix peuvent exiger de voir ces documents et s'ils ne peuvent être produits de façon immédiate, ils ont le droit de saisir les armes à feu. L'individu concerné a alors 14 jours pour produire la documentation afférente, faute de quoi, les forces policières peuvent demander à une cour d'émettre une ordonnance de confiscation et de disposition. Bien que le fait de ne pas avoir sous la main la documentation nécessaire ne soit pas une infraction criminelle en soi, un oubli peut entraîner des conséquences et tracasseries sérieuses. Il est fortement recommandé d'avoir ces documents sous la main en tout temps, lorsque des armes à feu sont transportées ou utilisées.

RÈGLES APPLICABLES AUX ARMES À FEU SANS RESTRICTIONS

Une arme à feu sans restriction peut être transportée sans être verrouillée, n'importe où dans un véhicule, tant et aussi longtemps qu'elle n'est pas chargée. La loi n'exige aucunement que

Les armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibées doivent être munies d'une barrure de pontet et être dans un coffret verrouillé, lors transportées.



l'arme à feu soit verrouillée ou hors de la vue des passants, tant et aussi longtemps que le véhicule est surveillé. Toutefois, le transport d'une arme à feu dans la boîte d'une camionnette, dans un environnement passant avec de multiples arrêts et feux de circulation est une bien mauvaise idée. En effet, une personne qui agirait ainsi pourrait être accusée de transport négligent d'une arme à feu en vertu de l'article 86(1) du Code criminel.

Lorsqu'un véhicule est à l'arrêt et sans surveillance, même brièvement (comme c'est le cas lorsqu'une personne paye pour un plein d'essence en route vers un lieu de chasse), l'arme à feu doit se trouver dans le coffre du véhicule (qui se doit d'être verrouillé), s'il en est muni ou, au cas contraire, être hors de la vue et le véhicule doit alors être verrouillé. En région éloignée, lors d'une activité de chasse, une barrure de pontet est acceptable lorsque le véhicule laissé sans surveillance n'est pas muni d'un coffre. Cette dernière règle vise vraisemblablement les VTT, motoneiges et bateaux.

Bien que la législation ne requiert pas qu'une arme à feu sans restrictions soit verrouillée lors du transport, il est souvent prudent d'agir ainsi. En effet, le passager d'un véhicule transportant une arme à feu non verrouillée et qui

ne détient pas un PAF de la classe appropriée ne peut être laissé seul avec l'arme à feu dans le véhicule lorsque le détenteur de permis n'est pas présent.

RÈGLES APPLICABLES AUX ARMES À FEU À AUTORISATION RESTREINTE ET PROHIBÉES

Dans ce cas, la règle du double verrouillage s'applique en tout temps. Les armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibées doivent être munies d'une barrure de pontet et être dans un coffret verrouillé, lorsque transportées. Le coffret doit être opaque et être construit de façon telle qu'il ne puisse s'ouvrir accidentellement et que l'on ne puisse pas l'ouvrir facilement par la force. Lorsque le véhicule est à l'arrêt et sans surveillance, même brièvement, le coffret de transport doit se trouver dans le coffre du véhicule (qui se doit d'être verrouillé), s'il en est muni ou, au cas contraire, être hors de la vue et le véhicule doit alors être verrouillé.

Un rappel quant au fait que les armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibées ne peuvent être transportées qu'entre les endroits autorisés par un Contrôleur des armes à feu et selon les termes des autorisations de transport émises (qu'elles soient sous la forme traditionnelle ou à titre de condition rattachée à un permis) et ce, par l'itinéraire qui est raisonnablement le

plus direct. Les détours et arrêts non requis sont à proscrire, lors du transport d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibées.

RÈGLES PARTICULIÈRES À CERTAINES ARMES À FEU PROHIBÉES

Lors du transport d'une arme à feu entièrement automatique, le verrou ou la glissière (s'ils peuvent être retirés avec une facilité raisonnable) doivent être enlevés. Cette règle s'applique en sus de toutes les autres règles énoncées ci-haut.

RÈGLES APPLICABLES AU TRANSPORT DES ARMES À FEU HISTORIQUES

Bien qu'à plusieurs égards, les armes à feu historiques ne soient pas considérées comme étant des armes à feu, il en va autrement quant à l'application des règles de transport et d'entreposage. En plus de devoir ne pas être chargées, les armes à feu historiques sont assujetties aux mêmes règles que les armes à feu à autorisation restreinte, selon qu'elles sont des armes longues ou des armes de poing.

DERNIÈRES RECOMMANDATIONS ADRESSÉES AUX CHASSEURS

Dans plusieurs juridictions, il est illégal de décharger une arme à feu à partir de certains chemins publics ou à moins d'une certaine distance d'un tel chemin (généralement 10 mètres). Plusieurs chasseurs ignorent qu'il est alors illégal de charger ou manipuler une arme à feu à ces mêmes endroits. Ainsi, un chasseur qui immobilise son véhicule en bordure d'un chemin public assujetti à de telles règles ne peut charger son arme à feu à moins de se trouver à la distance requise du chemin. Il en va de même si une personne doit traverser un tel chemin public. Certaines routes situées en milieu rural sont exemptées. Néanmoins, il est sage de s'enquérir des règles applicables tant au niveau provincial que municipal, afin de ne pas se retrouver dans l'eau chaude.

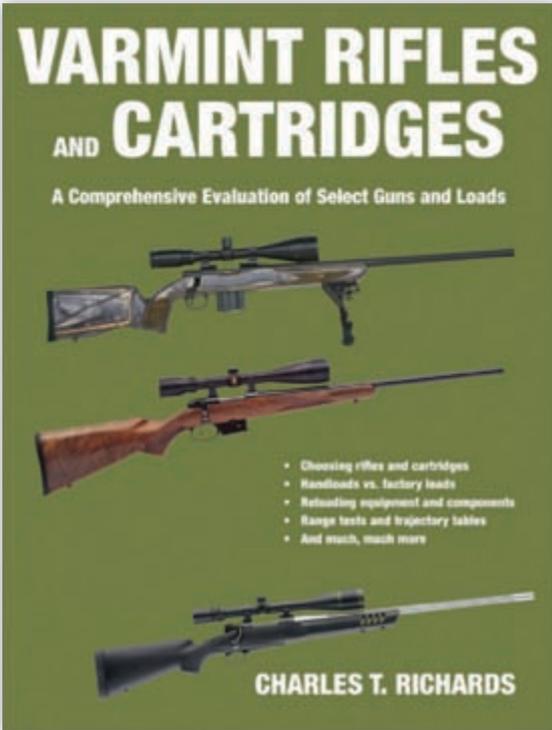
Enfin, certaines provinces ont édicté des règles voulant que les armes à feu soient transportées dans un étui fermé à certaines heures. Le but de ces dispositions serait de prévenir les activités de braconnage. A nouveau, il est recommandé de vous enquérir des règles applicables dans la province où vous comptez aller chasser. 



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Varmint Rifles And Cartridges A Comprehensive Evaluation Of Selected Guns And Loads



Shooters who have chosen to become involved in the growing sport of varmint hunting are fortunate to have a variety of options when purchasing a rifle. Manufacturers currently offer an extensive selection of high-quality varmint rifles chambered for numerous cartridges. But selecting the best combination of rifle and cartridge can be a challenging decision.

Varmint Rifles and Cartridges shares Charles Richards' personal experience with a variety of varmint rifles he has owned over the past six decades. In his retirement years, Richards decided to share his accumulated knowledge with others to assist them in selecting the varmint rifle that best suits their needs.

In the first chapter, the enjoyment and increasing popularity of varmint shooting is emphasized. Richards provides a basic description of 39 suitable rifles currently offered by 12 major firearm manufacturers. A new shooter has a choice of 23 cartridges currently

chambered in these various rifles.

At no point does the author claim *Varmint Rifles and Cartridges* includes all available knowledge regarding varmint rifles, ammunition and reloading components. Such a comprehensive feat would require years of extensive experimentation and generate an encyclopedia of knowledge. Instead, Richards has chosen to concentrate his efforts on eight calibres: the 204 Ruger, 221 Remington Fireball, 223 Remington, 22-250, 220 Swift, 243 Winchester, 6 MM Remington and 257 Roberts. Each of the next eight chapters reflects upon his personal experience with a

rifle chambered in one of these cartridges. Throughout the book, there is an obvious preference noted for bolt-action rifles.

The format for each chapter is identical, beginning with a basic history of the cartridge, followed by a description of the actual firearm used in testing. Tables are provided for suitable factory ammunition and list bullet type, weight, velocity and energy. Reloading data sourced from a variety of manufacturer's manuals displays powder type and bullet weight, followed by the performance of minimum and maximum powder charges. Actual targets and chronograph printouts are accompanied by Richards' informative comments.

Handloading cartridges allows for extensive experimentation with various components, and Richards expresses the satisfaction gained by developing loads that will print small groups. The author advises that some cartridges, such as the 257 Roberts, must be handloaded if they are to be suitable

for varmint hunting. For example, no ammunition manufacturer currently produces 257 Roberts cartridges with a light bullet. In this case, the 75-grain Sierra HP was chosen by Richards for testing. While it proved accurate, the velocity from his rifle was consistently about 300 feet per second less than the reloading manual predicted, which demonstrates that results based on actual experience can differ significantly from published data.

Trajectory tables are included for each bullet weight and muzzle velocity. While much of the data presented could be located by referring to a stack of manufacturer's catalogues and reloading manuals, there is a definite advantage to having information presented in one reference book. The table of contents and index allow the reader to quickly locate material. Pages will undoubtedly be bookmarked, and important content highlighted by the reader.

Varmint Rifles and Cartridges provides guidance for varmint shooters based on actual experience. Listing at \$19.95 US, it is also available in Kindle edition for slightly less. 

Title: Varmint Rifles And Cartridges: A Comprehensive Evaluation Of Selected Guns And Loads

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FOUR DECADES & GOING STRONG

This issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal* marks the completion of 40 years of the NFA producing a regular publication for its members. In its infancy, the magazine was called *The NFA Journal*, with the first issue published in August 1978. Then, sometime later, the name was changed to *Point Blank*, and then eventually to *The Canadian Firearms Journal*. But the magazine's mandate to keep NFA members informed has never changed. Happy 40th CFJ!

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