

# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

MARCH/APRIL 2019

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# CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

March/April 2019



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## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# On the Cover

The day before the beginning of the annual SHOT Show is officially known as Industry Day at the Range. Here, vendors can show off their products by allowing media and buyers to pull triggers and launch bullets. This image by Lowell Strauss is from the CADEX Defence booth, where shooters were given the opportunity to engage targets beyond 1,000 yards. To help shooters succeed at those distances takes not only great guns and ammunition, but also exceptional coaching and spotting skills. So, CADEX uses instructors from Rob Furlong's Marksmanship Academy. This is one of their instructors working as a spotter while someone takes a CADEX rifle for a test drive. It was another example of the pool of Canadian talent we have in this country that is showing the world how to get it done at long distances. 



## Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



CANADA'S  
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ASSOCIATION

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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## Industry News

As I write this, I've just returned from the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, and my brain is trying to process everything I saw and heard there. Of course, it's impossible to see everything on display, as the show is just too large. However, that apparently hasn't slowed down the organizers, as they are planning to expand the show into some newly available space across the street next year. Which will just make it crazy times two.

I can't help but compare SHOT Show attendance to my hunting trips, where I get up well before dawn, punish my body by walking too far, don't drink enough fluids, then get home far too late, all while getting sore muscles and bone tired. But when someone asks how my hunting day was, the reply is always the same, "It was awesome!"

Fortunately, I didn't need to see everything myself. Three other CFJ writers helped me cope with the information overload of SHOT and their reports

are all in this issue of the magazine. See each of their feature articles for a distinctly Canadian version of what was new at the show.

As usual, there were lots of products which have little relevance to Canada, particularly short-barreled handguns and suppressors. Personally, I find the prevalence of suppressors and the fact they are prohibited in Canada particularly depressing. Many countries encourage sport shooters to use suppressors, as it reduces noise pollution and saves a shooter's hearing. However, our legislators have so far refused to accept the reality of suppressors. This was emphasized to me recently while watching a movie in which two assassins shot it out in a crowded shopping mall. Using full-power handguns equipped with suppressors, they would sneak shots at each other, and shoppers standing beside them didn't even notice. Of course, the shoppers didn't notice the "impact" of bullets into pillars or store fronts

either, so any gun owner will recognize it as complete fantasy. However, I'm sure it added to the misinformation people believe about suppressor effectiveness. Thanks Hollywood.

But there were still lots of new products on display at SHOT which we will get to see in Canada. And although the time lag for some products to reach us is painfully slow, we'll get them eventually. A perfect example is a rifle I saw introduced at last year's SHOT Show, which took 11 months to appear on dealer's shelves in Canada.

Also encouraging is the number of Canadian companies with booths at SHOT, and the amount of Canadian technology being utilized by companies of other nations. There are lots of great stories to be told in this regard. Combined with the political happenings promised for 2019, it's going to be an eventful year. We'll do our best to keep you informed by bringing all these stories to your mailbox. After all, the CFJ is your magazine. 





# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Breeding Disrespect

As I write this, many of us are waiting on the deadline to comply with the Quebec provincial registry. The NFA is taking the matter to court for a date scheduled in late February. This situation has created a dilemma for many Quebec residents as to whether or not to participate in what is clearly intended to be part of the government's civil disarmament agenda. The NFA is not going to tell anyone to break the law. However, it is clear that when laws do not serve any legitimate purpose, they will be disobeyed, and by all accounts many in Quebec are resisting this bad law.

The widespread disregard for this provincial law (based on federal records) is clearly something that government should heed carefully. Once a slice is taken from a loaf of bread, it becomes much easier to take another slice. Or in the case of laws, if a law has earned the disrespect of those it affects, then it is likely that such disrespect will carry forward to other laws. And that circumstance is the path to a general disrespect for law, order and government. That certainly isn't where Canadians, whether from Quebec or anywhere else, want to go, and it certainly shouldn't be a situation forced by government.

The problem in Quebec is that no government is particularly friendly to firearms owners – that situation means many firearms owners find themselves frustrated and disrespected by politicians. They are thus forced into non-compliance and general disrespect of their government. This is no different from people anywhere when their culture and lifestyles are disregarded. Events in Europe have demonstrated this fact on several occasions. Government ignores large swathes of the population at its peril – even in the face of diametrically opposed positions. There

will always be segments of society who would do harm to others for their own perceived gain. It is foolish to make sweeping legislation which affects large segments of the people who intend no ill behavior. The effect is that many are forced into becoming scoff-laws.

"The greatest ill one can do is to take advantage of and abuse someone who is loyal. With more gun control, firearms owners are being unnecessarily abused. C-71, which is currently before the Senate, and fanciful Liberal notions of gun bans, central storage and increased bureaucracy for firearms owners are clear examples of abuse."

Lately there is much interest from the government in statistics. Politicians may want to consider the fact that target sports and hunting, whether with bow or firearm, are safer and have fewer injuries or deaths than nearly every other

sporting activity. They may want to consider that people who own firearms are statistically of higher income, maintain more loyalty to their communities and have more propensity towards law and order than most other groups.

The greatest ill one can do is to take advantage of and abuse someone who is loyal. With more gun control, firearms owners are being unnecessarily abused. C-71, which is currently before the Senate, and fanciful Liberal notions of gun bans, central storage and increased bureaucracy for firearms owners are clear examples of abuse. Canadian firearms owners had enough with Bill C-17 from the Mulroney-Campbell era. They were abused badly by the Chretien-Rock gun control of C-68, saw a brief and very limited reprieve in the ending of the so-called long gun registry under Harper, and now face a new wave of unnecessary gun control from the triumvirate of Trudeau, Goodale and Blair.

None of that was necessary and none of it is OK. Firearms owners will not tolerate more gun control, and demand considerably less. Any government or party which ignores that fact does so at the peril of its electability. Voting in the next federal election will need to be strategic, as it is clear the current government must go. And with the margins of victory being so narrow, it is critical for voters to make the choice to vote for their rights, their sports and their futures. It is also critical to hold any government or elected politician responsible for his/her choices.

Join the party most likely to defeat this government – make sure that they know why you are there. Get their commitments of support, and work hard to get them elected, and their opponents and vote splitters defeated. And get others to join the NFA, get your club to affiliate with us. Our efforts are only as successful as your support allows.

# Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

## Provoquer le manque de respect

**P**endant que j'écris ces lignes, plusieurs d'entre nous attendons l'échéance imposée par Québec pour se conformer au registre provincial. Plusieurs résidents du Québec vivent un dilemme, à savoir s'il vont s'y conformer ou non, sachant que ce registre fait parti de l'agenda de désarmement civil du Gouvernement du Québec. L'ACAF ne dira pas aux gens de désobéir la loi. Il est clair par contre, que toute loi qui n'a pas de fin légitime ne sera pas respectée. Selon toutes les indications à date, plusieurs personnes au Québec refusent de se soumettre à cette mauvaise loi.

La résistance généralisée face à cette loi provinciale (selon des données fédérales) devrait servir d'avertissement au gouvernement. Lorsqu'on prend la première tranche d'un pain, il est beaucoup plus facile d'en prendre une suivante. Dans le cas des lois, si une première loi engendre le manque de respect envers ceux qu'elle affecte, il est fort probable que cette perte de respect s'étendra à propos de nouvelles lois dans l'avenir. Cette tendance pousse la société vers un manque de respect généralisé envers les lois, l'ordre et le gouvernement. Ceci est une situation que les Canadiens du Québec ou d'ailleurs doivent éviter et elle ne doit pas prendre sa source du gouvernement lui même.

Le problème au Québec est qu'aucun gouvernement ne soit favorable envers les propriétaires d'armes à feu - cette situation engendre de la frustration et la réalisation que les politiciens ne les respectent pas. Ils se sentent forcés de ne pas respecter la loi et développent un sentiment de mépris envers leur gouvernement. Le même phénomène se produit en tout lieu quand les habitudes de vie et la culture des gens est ignoré par un gouvernement. Nous en avons été témoin en Europe plusieurs fois déjà. Les gouvernements qui ignorent un grand nombre de leurs citoyens le font à leur péril - même lorsqu'ils font face à une opposition vigoureuse.

Il existera toujours certain membres de notre société qui voudrons faire du mal aux autres pour l'avancement de leur cause. Ce n'est pas intelligent de créer des lois qui affectent une grande portion de la population qui ne possède aucune mauvaise intention. Ils se sentiront forcés de ne pas respecter ces lois.

Récemment le gouvernement semble s'intéresser aux données statistiques. Les politiciens devraient se pencher sur le fait que les sports de tir, qu'ils

"Le plus grand mal que l'on puisse faire c'est d'abuser de la loyauté d'un autre. Un contrôle des armes plus sévère abuse inutilement les propriétaires d'armes à feu. C-71 qui est présentement au Sénat et les réflexions des Libéraux à propos de nouvelles interdictions d'armes à feu, les entreposages centralisés et l'augmentation de la bureaucratie sont des exemples flagrants d'abus."

soient à l'arc ou avec des armes à feu, sont les plus sécuritaires et dénombrent le moins de blessures ou de décès que presque toutes autres activités sportives. Ils devraient aussi porter attention aux données qui démontrent que les propriétaires d'armes à feu ont des revenus plus haut que la moyenne, ils maintiennent plus de loyauté envers leur communauté et sont plus enclins à respecter la loi et l'ordre que tout autre groupe de citoyens.

Le plus grand mal que l'on puisse faire c'est d'abuser de la loyauté d'un autre. Un contrôle des armes plus sévère abuse inutilement les propriétaires d'armes à feu. C-71 qui est présentement au Sénat et les réflexions des Libéraux à propos de nouvelles interdictions d'armes à feu, les entreposages centralisés et l'augmentation de la bureaucratie sont des exemples flagrants d'abus. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu en ont eu assez avec le Projet de Loi C-17 de Mulroney-Campbell. Ils ont aussi gravement subis le contrôle des armes C-68 de Chrétien-Rock. Ils ont bénéficié d'un répit bref et très limité lorsque le registre des armes d'épaule a été aboli par le gouvernement Harper. Maintenant ils font face à une autre vague inutile de contrôle des armes par le trio Trudeau, Goodale et Blair.

Tout cela a été inutile et pas correct. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu ne toléreront pas de contrôle supplémentaire des armes à feu, ils en demandent plutôt la réduction. Tout gouvernement ou tout parti qui ignore ce sentiment, le fait au péril du succès de son élection. Le vote dans la prochaine élection Fédérale devra être stratégique car il est clair que le gouvernement actuel doit disparaître. Puisque les marges qui mènent à la victoire sont si minces, il est impératif que tous les électeurs fassent un choix pour garder leurs droits, leurs sports et leur avenir. Il est aussi impératif que tout gouvernement ou politicien élu soient tenu responsable de leurs choix.

Devenez membre du parti qui pourra défaire ce gouvernement - assurez vous qu'ils sachent pourquoi vous êtes devenus membres. Assurez vous qu'ils vous appuient et travaillez fort pour les faire élire. Soyez surs que les adversaires et ceux qui divisent le vote soient vaincus. Encouragez d'autres à devenir membre de l'ACAF - encouragez votre Club de s'affilier avec nous. Nos efforts seront couronnés de succès dans la mesure ou vous nous appuiez. 



# Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

## Quebec's Deadline

I write this two days away from the deadline for rifle and shotgun registration in Quebec. With great fanfare, the Quebec provincial government has made amendments to its law in order to remove "irritants" to firearms owners. They really believe that this is a systems problem, which merely inconveniences people who might otherwise be coerced to comply. They seem to believe it is not a matter of principle. And how gracious of them that they would risk public safety itself just to make it "easier" to register a gun in Quebec. But at the end of the day, this is not really a subject for any kind of levity.

The deadline for registration was Jan. 29 and 80 per cent of the firearms requiring registration in this cockamamie sop to the civil disarmament lobby, this fool's errand, remain unregistered. The 20 per cent captured by the Quebec gun registry mostly represent firearms in dealer and wholesaler inventories.

Some Quebecers have complied because they simply have no choice; too many guns, representing too much property to risk running afoul of this law. Jobs, careers and family are at risk. Others have moved their guns out of the province in order to avoid a registry that was conceived solely to facilitate the confiscation of property from Quebecers. Others will register one or two guns to use and hide the rest as an act of defiance to a government and civil disarmament program that holds their rights and property in such bitter contempt. Some will register nothing and go underground.

Will Quebec extend that registry deadline? Who knows? And frankly, who cares. The Quebecers I have spoken to have largely made their own decisions on whether to comply with this egregiously offensive initiative or not. It is all too familiar. Canadians went through this a relatively short

time ago during the Bill C-68 debacle. That registry spawned civil disobedience, massive non-compliance and a divisive political debate that is still not over and will perhaps never be. It woke Canadians up to a very real threat to their rights and property, and now it will all be played out again in Quebec.

Canada's National Firearms Association has spent many thousands of dollars fighting the attempt to impose a rifle and shotgun registry in Quebec. So far, we haven't been successful, and the appeal to the decision in our latest case will be heard in February. We do this not just for the benefit of our members in Quebec, but in every other

"No court decision will definitely solve this issue in Quebec, only the lack of will of a Quebec government to continue with a program that is a demonstrated failure, is controversial and that is an unacceptable burden to taxpayers."

province as well. The civil disarmament ideologists, who have so much intellectually invested in this concept, want the Quebec gun registry established as a precedent, with similar registries set up in other provinces and mandatory universal registration nationally at some later date.

The Liberal government is in the process of passing federal legislation in the form of Bill C-71 that will not only threaten the rights and property of all Canadians, but also transfer pre-2012 federal long-gun registry data to Quebec for the purpose of aiding in the construction of their registry. That

is largely what this program was sold on; that it would not become a burden to taxpayers because the data already existed. The fact that it is seven years stale and that many thousands of guns have changed hands over the ensuing years without the permission of government bureaucrats means nothing to those who don't have even a passing understanding of, or familiarity with, the issue. If it feels good or sounds good, surely it must be the right thing to do?

This is a battle of ideologies and philosophies. Public safety and violence don't even enter into the equation. This is the four Ps: political posturing for progressive politicians in action. It doesn't have to work; firearms registration is a sacred cow to a certain segment of society that really doesn't care about the rights and property of their fellow Canadians.

The proponents of civil disarmament will never admit their failures. Even as universal registration was ending in Canada in 2012 and it was clear that the firearms program had failed, with the aid of their fellow travellers in the mainstream media they proclaimed that the infamous technical glitches of the gun registry had been solved, the costs were finally under control and that it was "just starting to work."

No court decision will definitely solve this issue in Quebec, only the lack of will of a Quebec government to continue with a program that is a demonstrated failure, is controversial and that is an unacceptable burden to taxpayers. Sound familiar? It should. That is what happened in 2012 with the federal Conservative government's Bill C-19, and it can happen again if Quebecers are willing to put in the investment of time and hard political action. Ultimately, whether this rifle and shotgun registry continues, or ends, is in their hands. 



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## REGISTER NOW!

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**By mail :** use mail-in registration form (magazine insert)

Please register early to help us plan arrangements. If you are not yet a member, it is not too late to join. Donations to support this event are gratefully appreciated.



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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## The Guns & Leather Of Cowboy Action Shooting



The leather and other accoutrements of cowboy action shooting are often works of art.

Cowboy action shooting is a fun and exciting firearms sport that appeals to a broad selection of individuals, young and old, male or female. Many of its adherents have embraced the sport because they feel it's more relaxed and a little less competitive than other action shooting disciplines.

Cowboy action shooting's history begins in 1981 with three cowboy movie aficionados who were top-level practical pistol shooters, Harper Creigh, Bill Hahn and Gordon Davis. Harper Creigh is still with us; Bill Hahn and Gordon Davis have since passed away. The first cowboy action event, called End Of Trail, unfolded in the summer of 1982 in the California community of Coto de Caza at their dedicated shooting range. And the rest, as they say, is history. They formed the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) to run these matches, and today it has a membership of over 110,000.

### BASIC GUNS & GEAR

The equipment used will vary, depending on what level one wants to compete at. As one competitor put it, "You get to choose your very own fantasy." Hardcore competitors often choose finely tuned Ruger Vaqueros. Also popular are Ruger and Uberti SASS commemorative guns with the SASS logo on them. Then there are the more traditional participants who prefer more classic guns, such as Colt revolvers or Colt copies by assorted makers. Also seen are Colt or Remington conversions and Smith & Wesson top-break revolvers.

Shotgun favourites include hammerless, tuned double guns and 1897 Winchester pump guns or modern-made clones. The double-barrel guns appear in a seemingly infinite variety of configurations, with long barrels, short "coach" barrels and either with hammers or without. Some shooters even use extensively tuned 1887 lever-action

shotguns.

Rifle choices include 1873 Winchester-style short rifles or carbines, tuned and fitted with short stroke kits. But almost any pistol-calibre lever gun is likely to make an appearance, including Marlins. Even copies of the Colt pump-action Lightning rifle show up at matches.

Competitor's handgun leather is designed for speed and accessibility. A conventional strong side holster mated with a cross draw is the most favoured. The next most popular is strong hand and weak hand holsters with both butts turned rearward.

### AGE & GEAR CATEGORIES

Cowboy action shooting is not gender biased, because the top gun is always the participant who is fastest and most accurate. However, the competitions are age-based so everyone competes within their own age group; juniors compete with other juniors, octogenarians with

other octogenarians, and more categories in between.

The category for 13 years and under is called Buckaroos and Buckarettes. They must use .22 calibre single-action revolvers, .22 calibre lever guns and .410 bore shotguns. Another category, called Frontier Cartridge, is intended for those who desire to use traditional firearms. They must shoot all three firearms with black powder. The rifles used can be any SASS legal main match rifle, shotguns must be side-by-side or Winchester-style lever-actions conforming to the pre-smokeless powder age. Revolvers are percussion ignition or percussion-style conversions or regular main match single actions. The revolvers can be shot duelist (one hand), double duelist (one in each hand), gunfighter or two-handed.

For those who want to travel further back in time to the primitive early frontier, their class is called Frontiersman. The revolvers must be percussion ignition of any type that is SASS legal and must be shot duelist or double duelist. Rifles can be any SASS legal rifle, and shotguns must be side-by-side double-guns or lever-actions. All firearms must be shot with black powder.

Then there are the speciality categories, such as Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl and B-Western, each of which have very special dress code and equipment requirements that must be adhered to. These two competitions are much enjoyed by those who like the Golden Age of the cowboy. B-Western is all about the western movies of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, which featured actors such as Roy Rogers, Dale Evans, Gene Autry, William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy), Clayton Moore (Lone Ranger), Bill Elliot (Red Rider), Tex Ritter, Bob Steele and Tim Holt. The costumes for B-Western are colourful and dramatic. Many female shooters participate in this category, as they are big fans of the genre. The Classic Cowboy and B-Western categories require research, attention to detail and knowing how to appropriately accessorize.

### SIDE MATCHES

There are also several side matches that are well attended at Single Action Shooting Society events. The Plainsman event requires two .36 calibre or larger percussion revolvers shot duelist style. Competitors must also use a SASS legal single-shot rifle of traditional black powder configuration, in .38 calibre



A rifle, shotgun and two revolvers are the basics of every cowboy shooter's gun collection.



Cowboy action shooting is often described as being less intense than other action shooting disciplines.

or larger. The rifle may have a spring actuated ejector if standard for that rifle. Shotguns must be a side-by-side, with or without exposed hammers, or a lever-action shotgun. Black powder must be used in all loads, rifle, revolver and shotgun.

The most popular side match is the Long Range (Precision) Rifle category. This side match differs from a main match rifle competition in that more emphasis is put on precision shooting at longer ranges, with time being a secondary scoring factor. Sub-categories include Lever-Action Revolver Calibre, Lever-Action Rifle Calibre and Single-Shot and Buffalo Single-Shot. Ammunition for all these categories can be loaded with either black powder or smokeless.

Single-Shot and Buffalo Single-Shot firearms must be originals or replicas of single-shot rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. All rifles must have exposed

hammers. Buffalo Single-Shot rifles must be .375-inch bore size or larger. Buffalo Single-Shot competition has further restrictions, requiring original or replica rifles to be a design of US manufacture. Spring-loaded ejectors are also prohibited, except for Springfield Trapdoor rifles.

Cowboy action shooting is an inviting, attractive shooting activity which is family friendly. Many parents, children and grandchildren shoot together. Cowboy action shooting is a fast-growing competition, and its blend of history and fantasy adds lustre to our firearms heritage. 🍷

### Sources:

- Single Action Shooting Society Rulebook
- Author's Single Action Shooting Society Archive
- Single Action Shooting Society History



# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## Evidence-Based Lies

The Liberal government often claims that its policies are “evidence based.” In a sense this is true, if one ignores what evidence is collected and how it is collected. Without accurate information, both police and policy makers are flying blind, with no true understanding of where problems exist or what, if any, effect their efforts are having. Worse yet, a false understanding of the situation can lead to vigorously advancing in the wrong direction and not even being aware of it. This is not a good strategy for any endeavour, and doing it where public safety is involved tends to leave bodies lying around.

A good example of how “accurate” information can not only be useless for analysis, but also positively harmful is how the Commissioner of Firearms reports police use of their database. The stated use is that police access the firearm’s database through the Police Information Centre, which allows officers to “trace recovered firearms or to anticipate the potential presence of firearms.” The 2016 *Commissioner of Firearms Report* cheerfully tells us that this is used 16,966 times per day. This is amazing! Who knew that police were involved in some sort of firearms incident over six million times a year? Canada must be positively awash in firearms crimes and alarms. The police must be focusing an overwhelming majority of their resources on this crisis alone. Oh my! Ban all guns! Well, actually no. What the Commissioner of Firearms did not report was that the database hits are automatic, and any time a police officer accesses the Police Information Centre for any reason – say, a licence plate check – they get the gun information. So how many of these inquiries involve firearms? We don’t know. The statistic mixes use of the database for its stated purpose with an avalanche of not-gun-related use. The statistic is a barrier to understanding and an obstacle to efficient police work, not a help.

Another wrinkle in our example is an extremely dangerous substitution of official narrative for reality. The official narrative states that the information from

the Firearms Centre alerts police to the potential presence of a firearm. In reality, the only firearms in the system are those that are lawfully registered. The only people in the system are legally licensed firearms owners. In short, it is a list of the law-abiding, the people least likely to be of danger to a police officer. People with gun prohibitions, such as convicted criminals, are not in the system. Illegal, unlicensed guns, most crime guns, are not in the system. This is the direct result of how guns are conceptualized. The Liberals assume that gun ownership (a centuries-old Canadian tradition) is a problem in and of itself. They assume, despite all evidence, that their immense, bureaucratic paperwork system of licensing and registration will, in some marvelous science-fiction manner, give them godlike control over all firearms. As a result, the police are warned about the guns and people least likely to harm them and dangerously blindsided about the people and guns most likely to threaten their lives.

### STATISTICS CANADA DISTORTS THE DATA

Statistics Canada’s choice of definitions distorts gun crime statistics at a fundamental level. Statistics Canada defines firearms-related offenses as offenses where a firearm was present. Present means that it could have been used, or in the possession of someone, victim or offender, during the crime or found nearby after the crime and not at all involved. A shooting homicide is firearms-related if the police later find a completely unrelated firearm at the crime scene. The result is that we have no idea how much actual criminal gun use there is in Canada. This strange decision seems to be based on the bizarre weapons effect theory that claims the mere presence of an inanimate object (firearm) increases or even causes violence. Statistics Canada also asserts that a firearm is so intimidating that it affects the crime even if it’s only nearby.

When Professor Mauser, a renowned gun researcher, made a special request to Statistics Canada asking for a compar-

ison of firearms-related crime to crimes where a firearm caused injury, he found that in 2013 there were 5,027 firearms-related incidents out of 263,054 violent crimes (two per cent of violent crimes). However, a gun only caused injury in 1,194 of these crimes. (0.5 per cent of violent crimes). Accordingly, all analysis of firearms-related crime in Canada could be using a statistic that quadruples the real number of these crimes. What is the true number? Nobody knows.

### POLICE TWIST THE NUMBERS

Recently, the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team and government officials have begun claiming that the majority of gun-related crimes in our communities are committed with domestically sourced firearms, and law-abiding firearms owners are the source of most crime guns. If true, this is a startling change in the pattern of crime in Canada. Previous studies have found that smuggled guns were the most common source of crime guns. For example, in 2005 the Vancouver Police estimated that 94 per cent of seized guns were from the US.

How has the source of crime guns changed so radically? Simple. Change the definition to suit the politics of the Liberal party and to support their gun ban proposals (the change also reflects the “all guns are illegal” attitude of our current gun laws). Instead of crime guns being guns used in violent crime, the definition now includes purely administrative crimes. The new definition (from the 2014 report of the Firearms Investigation and Enforcement Services, which is the origin of the factoid that the majority of crime guns are domestic sourced) states that a crime-gun is one where the gun is:

1. an illegally acquired firearm or;
2. suspected of have been used in a crime (includes found firearms) or;
3. has an obliterated serial number or;
4. is illegally modified.

Examining the report, we find that not all incidents have been reported, so the analysis is only tentative. Miss-

ing data can be more than just some missed reports, it can also indicate that some information is being systematically excluded, distorting the analysis. Using this expanded definition of crime gun also muddies the water by mixing administrative crimes with crimes of violence. Examining the numbers, we find that in the western region:

- Total crime-guns seized: 1,140
- Positively identified as domestic sourced using government databases: 97 (nine per cent)
- Traced firearms: 783 (783/1140 = 69 per cent)
- Successfully traced firearms: 223 (only 28 per cent of traces)
- Positively identified firearms (97+223): 320 firearms (28 per cent of total)
- Guns traced and identified as smuggled: 109
- Guns traced and identified as domestic: 114

And there you have it, a new, more extensive definition to include paperwork “crime guns,” a partial survey excluding Ontario and Quebec based on incomplete reporting. Only 28 per cent of crime guns were ever positively identified. But in the subset of suc-

cessfully traced crime guns, 114 were domestic and 109 smuggled. This subset of the data, such as it is, gives the Liberals the politically desired factoid. Back in the real world, we can note that only (97+114) 211 out of 1,140 guns, or 19 per cent, are actually identified as domestic sourced. We can also note that only nine per cent of the crime guns were in the restricted and prohibited firearms databases. (97/912,418 = one hundredth of one per cent of registered guns.) If law-abiding gun owners were a significant source of criminal handguns (the political claim), this number would be much higher, especially when we remember that this percentage includes paperwork crimes.

#### CONCLUSION

On examination, the statistics do not support the claim that the majority of crime guns are domestically sourced. The low number of registered guns is proof that the law-abiding are at most a very minor source of “crime guns.” There is not the faintest possibility that gun bans or further restrictions on the law-abiding will ever reduce gun crime. There is an absolute certainty that they

will divert and waste already scarce law enforcement resources. Not clever, especially when the RCMP, who are responsible for the firearms file, are chronically understaffed and seriously overextended with their current workload.

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Nathaniel Milljour

# BUYER BEWARE

Tips for shopping carefully

*BY DUANE RADFORD*



When purchasing a new gun, be sure to factor in the cost of any accessories you'll need.



I've always had a hankering for an over/under shotgun. There's just something about their sexy look that appeals to me. But I'd never shot one before, so when the opportunity arose to try some different models during a media event at a trap range, I jumped at the chance. However, the experience wasn't entirely positive, and reinforced the need to adhere to due diligence when purchasing firearms.

#### PERSONAL LESSONS

Yes, I'd grown up with and used single-shot, pump-action, side-by-side double-barreled shotguns and a semi-automatic, for many years, but I'd never shot an over/under before the media event. Superficially, the various over/under models seemed to have a lot in common. However, when I put them to the test, I found there were many differences regarding their balance, how the safety worked, sights, weight, ease of handling and action. Without naming names, it wasn't until I'd fired a couple of boxes of trap loads that I discovered a serious shortfall with one of the models. After opening the breech, I couldn't budge the action because the hinge locked. It wouldn't move. I couldn't

close the shotgun. After an industry representative sprayed the hinge with a lubricant and a few minutes wait time, I was finally able to open and close the action again. I'm presuming the heat of repeated firing caused the metal to expand and, as a result, the hinge seized.

Well, even if a shooter only intended to use this model at a trap or skeet range, this flaw should raise some red flags. While this might not happen every day, it certainly was a concern because it took a lot of lubricant and some muscle to get the action to work properly again. Don't think the issue ends there, however. It's common during waterfowl field shoots to run through a box of shotgun shells very quickly. Consequently, you could end up with a jammed action after paying thousands of dollars on a guided hunt – on top of owning a firearm with flaws. The retail industry standard for returns is 30 days after point of sale. If this return date expires, you'll have to take your complaint to the manufacturer, who might tell you the warranty doesn't cover such seizures.

When I compared the over/under models with other actions I had more experience with, I began to doubt buy-

ing one, considering the type of hunting I do. For example, over/under models don't always mix well when shooting waterfowl from layout blinds. In an interview, Black Dog Outfitter's Blaine Burns said, "Your shotgun barrel always needs to be above the bar in a layout blind. The doors of the blind always close over the gun. The barrel should be pointed up at all times." This is one of the reasons Burns doesn't like short-barrelled over/under and side-by-side shotguns, because some hunters keep these types of guns under the bar in a layout blind. He knows of one instance where a hunter shot his toe off under these circumstances. If you have a love affair with a certain make and model of firearm, until you actually test it under simulated field conditions you may not appreciate potential limitations.

The shotgun industry representative at the media shoot didn't have an answer as to why the action jammed. The obvious lesson I learned is that you have to look beyond the visual appeal of a shotgun before you buy it. Check your sources to see whether any mechanical problems have been experienced by other shooters. Appearance isn't everything in a firearm. Shop wisely and



Shooting ranges are great places to check out new guns, and most fellow shooters will help you determine if their gun is right for you, often letting you try a few shots.



For the most success in the field, it's critical to have the right tools. Careful purchasing achieves that goal.

carefully for all firearms, to make sure they meet your needs.

It's not just shotguns. I also had a similar experience with a bolt-action rifle chambered for 204 Ruger. I purchased mine when it was one of the few models in this calibre on the retail market. It was a fine gun, but I always had reservations that it didn't have a detachable clip, a feature high on my priority list for rifles. So, the time came when I traded it in (at a financial loss) to a local dealer for another 204 Ruger, a Tikka T3 Lite, which did have a detachable magazine. The Tikka also had a better fit and shouldered more easily than the previous rifle.

#### ADVERTISING HAS PURPOSE

Retailers want you to buy firearms. So, advertisements may feature "door crashers," but only "while quantities last" to get shoppers in the door. It must work, as parking lots are full. Catalogues will have firearm buffs drooling over the various eye-popping, dream firearms which look good enough to eat.



Some retailers will print fliers with firearm discounts amounting to \$200, and steep discounts on rifle ammunition. Also, it's common practice for retailers to feature a rifle or shotgun on the first page of their sale flyers with "total savings" listed in bold print. But that might include a manufacturer's rebate, which you have to mail in and wait six weeks for.

It might be a good idea to ask yourself why the item is on sale. Perhaps it's not selling because it's not a good buy and the retailer is trying to move it out. Secondly, if you purchase a rifle, they may be counting on selling you accessories. After all, you might need a locking gun cabinet, ammunition, a sling, a rifle scope, a carrying case, gun cleaning equipment (often specialized) and perhaps take the plunge into handloading, which has steep start-up costs. Not all retailers mount rifle scopes and bore sight them free of charge, unless you purchase both a rifle and scope, so buyers should be aware of hidden costs if they buy these items at different stores.

Shotguns carry the same kind of financial accessory baggage. Hunting decoys and game calls for both big game and waterfowl are plugged. Must-have hunting apparel is advertised. Retailers use sale prices as a hook to get customers engaged in even more purchases. To use a retail cliché, the sound at the cash register will ring out, "Cha-ching, cha-ching" as the end result!

#### RESEARCH IS KEY

Always research the kind of firearm you're thinking about purchasing to ensure it best fits your needs. Back in the day, when I first started hunting, guns with synthetic stocks and stainless-steel barrels were not on the market. For today's hunters, they're ideal considering the range of weather you might run into during an autumn or winter hunt, especially for waterfowl hunters who are often out in the rain. You don't want to scratch a fine-grained wooden gun stock if you're going to be hunting in rugged country, or damage a barrel with rust where rain and wet

snow might be an issue. Weight can also be a key factor if you're carrying a rifle in the Rocky Mountains or on the vast short grass prairies in western Canada, making a light rifle a better choice.

Don't buy a firearm if you feel uncomfortable with it. A gut feeling is probably at work, telling you not to make the purchase. A few years ago, I was in the market for a new 12-gauge shotgun and purchased a semi-auto Browning A5 Stalker. I waited until the end of summer when all the major local sporting goods stores had sales on. However, it wasn't until I handled three different brands of guns that I decided the A5 Stalker was right for me. I was also curious about the Browning Silver and the Browning BPS (one of which I already owned, but a 20 gauge). It wasn't until I laid out each model side by side and shouldered them a few times that I felt comfortable with the A5 Stalker. It proved itself to me as a keeper on my first hunt. The message is, don't run around town on a wild goose chase looking at different models – decide which ones you like best first, then go on your shopping trip.

It's not just shotguns that you have to feel comfortable with, because your love affair with a rifle will only last as long as it shoots well. My first store-bought rifle was a 308 Win. Globe, which had some good attributes but didn't shoot that well. Another downside to the Globe was that it kicked like a mule, much like the old Parker Hale 7mm Rem. Mag. that practically took your shoulder off. The downside of such rifles is they can cause a person to flinch, never a good thing. I traded the Globe in on a second-hand 270 Win. Husqvarna rifle that I used for many years until I started to miss some shots. I sold it and bought a Tikka T3, also in 270 Win., which has served me well.

I could go on, but you're probably getting the message. When you're purchasing a firearm, make sure you follow due diligence before you swipe your charge card. Research the firearm and check out your options online and at a gun store. Don't run around town window shopping if you don't know what you're looking for. Purchase a firearm that you're comfortable with and only after you've handled it personally. Ask around. What are other firearms owners and hunters saying about the brand and model you might be interested in? Don't rush your purchase. Do it right. Wait until your intuition indicates it's the right one for you. 🏹

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY CENTREFIRE



The centrefire cartridge is 150 years old  
*BY JEFF HELSDON*



The different centrefire rim types are, left to right: belted (375 H&H Magnum), rebated (243 Winchester Super Short Magnum), semi-rimmed (38 Super), rimmed (30-30 Winchester) and rimless (30-06 Springfield).

**I**n 1869, Colonel Edward Boxer of England's Royal Arsenal patented his design for the modern primer. Therefore, it can be legitimately argued that this year (2019) is the 150th anniversary of the modern centrefire cartridge in North America.

The trail to the innovation of what is now considered a modern centrefire cartridge is a blurry one that weaves itself through the 1800s. It's difficult to pick one point in the evolution and point to that person as the inventor of the centrefire cartridge, as a series of advances was involved. To look at the entire picture, it's necessary to take a step back in history.

#### CARTRIDGE HISTORY

In order to have a primer, a cartridge was first needed. The earliest cartridges, which can be traced back to the 14th century, were paper. These were almost universally a thick sheet of paper with a lead ball at one end, followed by powder, and then the paper twisted shut at the other end. The shooter bit off the twisted end of the paper, poured the powder in, then rammed the paper, which served as a wad, and ball. In a second operation, a small amount of

powder was added to a priming pan for ignition by either a flintlock, matchlock or wheel lock. Although this was the system favoured on the battlefield, most hunters used a pouch with balls and a powder horn.

Things changed in 1808 when Jean Samuel Pauly, a Swiss gunsmith, working with French gunsmith Francois Prelat, invented the first self-contained cartridge. This was an early step to integrating percussion cap, propellant and bullet all in one unit. It was crude, using a needle as a firing pin, but it was a major step forward. The needle pierced the paper "cartridge," passed through the powder and struck priming compound embedded at the base of the bullet to create ignition. This concept was subsequently refined further by German gunsmith Johann Dreyse and French inventor Antoine Chassepot. These early attempts gained some traction, including some military use. However, the muzzleloader still ruled the day as the gun of choice for more than another half century.

A series of small innovations continued to take place over the next four decades. Although it wasn't a centrefire, French gunsmith Louis-Nicolas Flob-

ert's 1845 invention of rimfire cartridge cases was a major development in cartridge history. Along the way, another French gunsmith, Casimir Lefauchaux, is given credit for an all-metal pinfire cartridge in 1836. Other sources credit another French inventor, Clement Pottet, with the first fully-integrated cartridge in 1829.

In 1846, Benjamin Houllier patented what was considered the first centrefire, metallic cartridge. His patents covered both centrefire and rimfire versions and differed from Lefauchaux and the Pauly cartridge in that it was all metal.

The Maynard Rifle Company is considered to have made the first commercially-successful metallic cartridge case in 1855 for its single-shot breechloading lever-action. These cartridges lacked a primer and were manufactured with a small hole in the base to allow the spark from either a percussion cap affixed to the hammer or from its patented primer tape system to reach the powder. These guns were used by the British in the Crimean War and in the American Civil War

#### MODERN PRIMERS

As most shooters know, there are >

## A Primer On Primers

Shooters often debate the merits of a particular bullet or powder for its accuracy or velocity, but they forget that without the primer to ignite the powder and the cartridge case to contain it, we would still be shooting muzzleloaders.

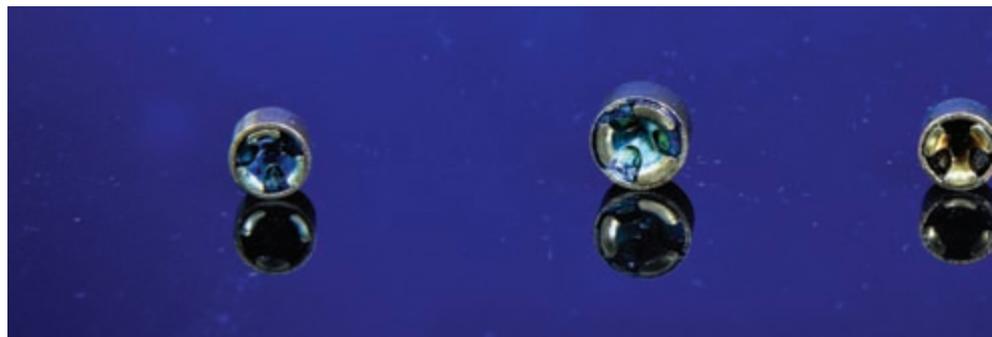
Modern primers are produced in four diameters. At 0.175 inches, there are both small pistol and small rifle primers. The difference between the two is the rifle version is made from a stronger, thicker metal cup to resist higher pressures. Shotgun primers, which are designated as 209, are 0.209 inches in diameter. Large rifle and pistol are 0.210 inches across. The largest commercially-available primer is the 50 BMG primers at 0.315 inches.

Gun powder is often viewed as the dangerous, explosive component of a cartridge, but primers are actually more explosive. Luckily for reloaders, and shooters in general, by the time we get our hands on primers, all the explosive material is contained. The priming material is considered dangerous enough that during manufacturing, a protective screen separates the chemicals from the operator.

The earliest primers used compounds such as mercury fulminate and potassium chlorate, but these caused varying degrees of problems with reliability and bore corrosion. All these issues were resolved when a compound using lead styphnate, barium nitrate and antimony sulfide was developed. The percentages of chemicals vary slightly from one manufacturer to another, but recipes are similar. It has been the gold standard in primer composition for decades and has a proven track record. However, it also contains heavy metals, particularly lead, and inhalation of the airborne residue can be hazardous.

Considerable research is now being done on developing heavy-metal-free primers and significant progress is being made. Of note is Federal Ammunition's recent release of a new priming compound recipe they call Catalyst primers. These are free of heavy metals and claim to be better than the traditional priming formula.

Berdan primed cartridge cases (left) have the anvil in the cartridge case. Boxer primed cases (right) have it built into the primer.



Centrefire cartridges are based on one of three different case designs. Left to right, they are straight-walled (480 Ruger), tapered (458 Lott) and bottleneck (270 Winchester).



# Centrefire Cartridge Case Design

Today there are five basic types of cartridge cases used for centrefire ammunition: rimmed, rimless, belted, rebated rim and semi-rimmed.

**RIMMED:** These are some of the earliest centrefire cartridges and are identified by having a rim significantly larger than the case body. The 30-30 Winchester, which is one of the earliest smokeless powder cartridges, is one example.

**RIMLESS:** These encompass many modern cartridges, such as the 308 Winchester family and many semi-automatic pistol cartridges. These cartridges have a rim the same diameter as the case body. These cartridges stack more compactly and provide better feeding reliability.

**BELTED:** This design was launched by Holland and Holland for its 375 H&H in the early 1900s. It adds a reinforcing ring, or belt, presumably to better withstand magnum pressures within the cartridge case. Modern examples include the 300 Winchester Magnum and the 7mm Remington Magnum.

**REBATED RIM:** These cartridges have a rim with a diameter smaller than the body of the case. This allows a firearm to use a larger-diameter cartridge case but maintain a breech face of a standard size. The 284 Winchester is a common example, as are some of the modern short magnum designs.

**SEMI-RIMMED:** The rim on this design is slightly larger than the case body. This type of cartridge seems to cause more problems than it solves and has lost favour amongst ammunition developers. Examples are the 220 Swift and 38 Super Auto.



Primers come in five common configurations. Left to right are: small rifle, large rifle, small pistol, large pistol and 209 shotgun. A sixth size, not shown, is the large primer used for the 50 BMG cartridge.

two types of modern primers, Berdan and Boxer. Both versions involve the firing pin striking a cup containing an explosive primer, housed between the interior of the cup and a small anvil. In Berdan primers, the anvil is part of the cartridge case, while in Boxer primers it is an integral part of the primer. A cartridge case which uses the Berdan system will typically have two flash holes which allow the primer's flame to reach the powder charge. A Boxer primed cartridge will only have a single, central flash hole.

New Yorker Hiram Berdan patented his primer on March 20, 1866. Today, Berdan primers are still in use in many European cartridges. Reloading these cartridge cases is difficult enough that it's not practical with this priming system. Six months later, Edward Boxer patented his primer in England on Oct. 13, 1866. The US patent followed on June 29, 1869. The Boxer primer subsequently became the standard for North American rifle, handgun and shotgun

ammunition. Cartridges primed with this system are easily reloadable. With primers in hand, 19th century inventors forged ahead with the movement towards the ammunition we know today. Things moved forward quickly, with much advancement in three decades.

Winchester claims its 44-40 WCF was the first successful centrefire cartridge. Designed for their 1873 lever-action rifle, it has been in continuous production ever since. However, the 45-70 Government cartridge was adopted by the US military in 1873, and therefore developed well before that. So, it has some legitimate claims too. In any case, smokeless powder was the next major development.

From its beginning to the invention of smokeless powder, centrefire cartridge development has involved controversy and varying claims of who was responsible for each of the firsts. Interestingly, once the design basics were down, not a lot has changed. 🍷



# SEE THE TARGET, HIT THE TARGET

Canada's nine-time women's trap shooting champion

*BY TIMOTHY FOWLER*

Six serious-looking Mexican Federales carrying cocked and locked automatic weapons want to know why a young Canadian woman has a firearm in her possession. They don't speak a lick of English. Imagine navigating Guadalajara airport from arrivals to an out-of-sight back room surrounded and escorted by these armed men. Imagine yourself in a stuffy interview room behind arrivals, in a country where you're a guest. You don't speak the language. The firearm is a Perazzi. And the woman in not on vacation.

#### TOP CANADIAN TRAP SHOOTER

Meet Amanda Chudoba-Obridgewitch, Pan Am gold medal trap shooter and nine-time consecutive Canadian women's trap shooting champion. She's trying to convince the interpreter, to in turn convince the Federales, that she needs her custom Perazzi (which cost nearly as much as an Italian sports car) released so she can go to her hotel and prepare for the shooting match that will unfold over the next few days.

You could say Amanda came into shooting honestly. Her first memory

of shotguns is a partridge hunt when she was two. She smiles when she talks about Grandma and her waiting on the quad while Grampa bails off with his .410 after a grouse. They can hear Grampa negotiating the thick stuff. He lets six shots go. They can't believe he missed that many times. But then he emerges with five grouse. Maybe this is partly where her natural ability with a shotgun comes from.

Amanda also remembers heading out at the crack of dawn with her father to hunt moose. She remembers

being quiet while they “wait for the moose to wake up.” She was little, and had a hard time staying awake while her Dad skinned and quartered the moose. The Chudobas shoot together as a family. At nine she was at the range, at 11 she broke her first clay, and at 12 participated in her first registered shoot at the Edmonton Gun Club. In 2004, she shot a 100/100 round, the youngest woman’s perfect score at that time. At 14 years old, she competed in her first international shoot. The year 2011 saw Amanda in Belgrade, Serbia, to compete, and 2014 at the Canadian Nationals in Toronto where she successfully defended her five-time national title. Then on to Acapulco, Mexico, to take gold in the Pan Am Games. This won her a qualifying spot at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Somewhere in there she graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Alberta, was married and delivered her first child.

**SEE THE TARGET, HIT THE TARGET**

Despite Amanda’s mantra, “See the target. Hit the target. There’s not a target I cannot break,” a single miss, one unbroken clay, glided to the ground, taking with it Amanda’s 2016 Olympic bid. In retrospect, she recalls fussing about her new baby, and not being mentally ready to tackle the targets. But true to form, she’s already on to the next target. She’s now focused on Acapulco in March, High Performance Trials in Tofield, Alta., for May, then Lima, Peru, where she will defend her Pan Am Gold title, which will earn her a shot at the 2020 summer Olympics in Tokyo. September 2019 holds a world competition in either Russia or Italy. One competition at a time, one clay bird after another.

“We shoot as a family, and I want my husband and I to hunt with our son,” she says.

Amanda is mother to two toddlers, wife, busy entrepreneur in the middle of a collection of family businesses, and somewhere in there she is a trap shooting competitor who is among the best in the world. She took her eighth national championship while eight months pregnant. She won gold in Acapulco when she was three-and-a-half months pregnant.

“My Dad says I shoot better pregnant,” she explains. “Trying to plan a family around shooting season is brutal.”



Amanda has collected a lifetime of trophies.

**PREPARE FOR THE SEASON**

Over time, every athlete develops their own approach to training, preparation, events and matches. Amanda grants herself a shooting break between October and Christmas by putting the gun away completely. But come January, she prepares for the upcoming competition season. After supper, when the house is settled, she dry-mounts the Perazzi to the wall – 20 to 25 mounts in as many minutes. Shooters from Canada and other countries that experience winter

in January have a weather disadvantage when compared to Australia and New Zealand. During our winter months, those competitors have access to warm ranges. Because most of the Canadian ranges are shut down and covered in snow, Amanda finds herself shooting in Arizona in January. An average season of trap shooting will see her put 6,000 to 10,000 shots downrange.

“My Dad is my number one coach and has been since I was 11. He knows in an instant what I am doing on the stand.” >

Gold is Amanda Chudoba-Obridgewitch's reward at the Canadian Nationals.



#### PREPARE FOR EVENT DAY

Preparing for events often requires weeks of planning and international travel.

After retrieving her gun from customs, Amanda heads to the hotel to unwind. She takes a good workout, has dinner in the restaurant, a bit of time to read and

unwind and a decent sleep. Mornings start early on event days – usually she is up at 5 a.m. and out for a walk by 5:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. She walks the range, tests and chooses shooting glasses based on lighting, background and weather. Amanda listens to a loop of her favourite music (it used to be

Burn it to the Ground by Nickelback, but she is looking for a new tune.) Music is a big part of what she does to prepare for a match.

“I listen to music to get the numbers out of my head,” she says. The automatic counting and calculation of scores in her head at Amateur Trap Association shoots is hard for her to interrupt. Music helps this. She uploads a loop of music in her head and sings this loop to herself while preparing to shoot. It helps clear her mind and prepare for the shot. After a session of stretching, she collects her gun and equipment to practice dry gun mounts and swing. Relax and prepare to shoot.

“You don’t realize how much you are going to hurt the next day. No matter what amount of training you do, you hurt the next day.”

When participating in successive days of shooting, she likes to take her mind off the day’s competition by acknowledging that round of targets is behind her. Tomorrow is a new set of targets.

#### PREPARE FOR THE SHOT

Once at the stand, Amanda rocks on her feet until she finds a sturdy stance while maintaining her mobility. She looks for a spot one-and-a-half fingers above the house near the horizon, places her eyes on that spot and identifies something to return her gaze to throughout the event. She returns to this gaze, anticipating the next clay. When ready, she mounts the gun, breathes and calls for the target. All that’s left is to shoot and follow through. She likes to break the remaining bits of clay on the way down if they are any. But 95 per cent of her hits are on the first barrel, owing to her 17 years of experience with Amateur Trap Association competition where shooters are allowed only one shot. She quickly analyzes (the rare) misses and moves on.

“Each target is a new target,” she says. “You have to completely forget misses.”

#### SEE YOU IN TOKYO

Amanda Chudoba-Obridgewitch is Alberta-born and raised. She is a busy young woman who is talented with a shotgun and works incredibly hard to perfect her shooting skills for world-class competition in trap-shooting events. She’s earned every clay she has ever broken. Good luck Amanda, we hope to see you in Tokyo 2020. 🍀



## REVIEW

# VORTEX SPARC AR

BY WALLY FONG

Out of the box, the Vortex SPARC AR looks like a solid red dot sight (RDS). A compact, all-aluminum body encased in a rubberized shell suggests it's resistant to shock and impact damage. Smaller than an EOTech and Aimpoint PRO, but larger than a T2 and Holosun, this RDS doesn't feel like you'll break it if you drop your rifle at a weird angle. But it's not so large that weight will adversely affect performance. It does seem to hit a sweet spot in terms of size and ruggedness.

Everything about the SPARC AR is about ease of use and operation/adjustment in the field without tools. For example, the caps for the windage adjustment knob, elevation and battery compartment are textured for grip. While the battery cap is indented with a slot, it is the opposite with the windage and elevation caps. Meaning, if you're having a hard time unscrewing an adjustment cap, you can use the battery cap to assist in unscrewing the adjustment knobs and vice versa. You can also use the protruding slot on the adjustment caps to work the dials while you are zeroing your dot. The rubber lens caps tether onto each other, a great



feature which keeps the caps from flopping around and distracting the shooter. Features like this are normally an option and can cost anywhere from \$30 to \$50 for competitor's sights.

The red dot is a crisp 2 MOA with 1 MOA adjustments per click, with 90 MOA of movement for both wind and elevation. The tube is nitrogen purged and O-ring sealed to prevent fogging and moisture problems. A big plus is

this sight's power source: it's a single, AAA battery, available anywhere and easier to replace than the specialized flat disc batteries other RDSs use. Dot intensity dependent, you can squeeze between 300 to 5,000 hours of use from the battery. There's an automatic 12-hour shut off to save battery life, or you can hold the down button for five seconds to turn it off. And those brightness buttons are big and beefy, located at the rear, also rubberized and easily accessible. The two lowest settings are for NVG use.

Mounting the SPARC AR is simple enough. The picatinny rail mount is spring assisted, which is a nice feature and demonstrates attention to detail on Vortex's theme of ease of use. My only issue is why Vortex used a Torx screw to lock the optic to the rail instead of a quick release. I suspect it was to keep the price point of this optic down, but at the same time it seems counter intuitive to have everything else on this sight tool-less except for the mount. However, this is only a minor point and doesn't really deter my opinion that this sight is a great overall package. Canadian retail is typically under \$300. 





# TRADITIONAL GUNS

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

**I**t was the biggest SHOT Show yet, with booth after booth of vendors showcasing their wares, all hoping they've got what the world needs. My mission for the show was simple: find the latest and greatest sporting guns for Canadian shooters and hunters. That can be challenging in an industry where 'new' is often an existing product released with a new camo pattern or an additional chambering. So, I searched the displays for truly novel guns and gear. Here are a few I can't wait to try.

## RIMFIRE

Scoring top marks for innovative design is the Winchester Wildcat rifle. Yes, just like the rimfire ammunition of the same name, the Wildcat rifle is a plinking pleasure. And this is not just another semi-auto rifle with different packaging, the firearm has been engineered from scratch. Its most notable feature is its ease of disassembly for cleaning. Simply press a button in the rear of the receiver and the entire lower receiver pulls out. With the action out of the way, the bore can be cleaned from breech to muzzle, the way it was meant to be. This also allows easy access to the bolt assembly and trigger group. The lower receiver assembly holds two hex-key wrenches, one for adjusting the rear peep sight and the other for removing the stock and the barrel. It has many other interesting features and conveniently it uses Ruger 10/22 magazines. There's

a lot more to it than I can cover in this short space, so if you'd like to learn more, read a detailed overview on the Winchester website.

Another .22LR that caught my eye was the CZ 457 Varmint MTR or Match Target Rifle. The MTR's Turkish walnut stock has a vertical grip with a contoured palm swell. This rifle sports a 20.5-inch cold hammer-forged heavy-barrel, match chamber and shooter-adjustable trigger. If it shoots as sweet as it looks, we're in for a real treat.

## SPORTING & HUNTING RIFLES

It's not a stretch to say that the popularity of long-range hunting and shooting is increasing. Browning has upped its long-range game with a new rifle, the Browning X-Bolt Max Long Range. Its composite stock uses an adjustable comb and spacers for a custom fit. A 26-inch stainless fluted heavy sporter barrel ensures maximum velocity, and a muzzle brake reduces recoil for faster follow-up shots. It's available in 11 popular long- and short-action cartridge chamberings, including 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 PRC, 7mm Rem Mag and 300 Win Mag.

Winchester's new centrefire cartridge, the 350 Legend, was unveiled at the 2019 SHOT Show. It's touted as "the world's fastest straight-walled hunting cartridge," and looking at the numbers, it achieves this with less recoil than the 450 Bushmaster and more energy than the 30-30 Winchester or 300 Blackout. The 350 Legend bullets are .357 inches

in diameter and its case length is 1.71 inches. But why another straight-wall cartridge? In the US, centerfire rifle cartridges are prohibited for hunting in many populated jurisdictions, for safety reasons. However, a limited number of straight-wall cartridges are allowed, as they are deemed to be safe to use in built-up areas – those with enough energy to quickly kill big game, but with a reduced dangerous range. The 350 Legend fits the bill with terminal ballistics suitable for hunting big game at moderate ranges. I suspect the game laws will determine this cartridge's popularity in Canada. Only time will tell if it succeeds. The Winchester XPR bolt-action rifle is chambered for the 350 Legend, and in the future other manufacturers will no doubt add it as well.

As the saying goes, life's too short to hunt with an ugly gun. If you're in the market for something pretty, Sako, Tikka and Marlin have a custom shop that'll add some pizzazz to your next gun purchase. Just like selecting features on a new vehicle, Sako and Tikka have a custom gun builder app on their website, allowing collectors to specify the features they want including calibre, stock style, wood grade, engraving, metal, barrel length, sights and trigger. Custom Marlin orders are placed through your dealer.

## SHOTGUNS

I'm a gundog guy, so I was excited to see the new Franchi Affinity





The CVA Paramount muzzleloader is claimed to have an effective range of 300-plus yards.



Winchester's Wildcat is an innovative 22LR rifle built for easy disassembly and maintenance.



Browning's X-Bolt Max Long Range has an adjustable stock and 26-inch stainless fluted heavy sporter barrel.



The Legends Cowboy Rifle by Umarex is an authentic reproduction of the 1892 Winchester. It even uses "cartridges" to load BBs.

3 Companion series shotguns. Each year of production will feature artwork highlighting a different sporting dog breed. This year it's the Labrador retriever – so here Franchi, take my money! It's a beautiful shotgun. A nickel-coloured receiver contrasts with detailed engravings. An AA-grade satin walnut stock and forend with cut checkering and a gold trigger inside a black trigger guard accent the artwork. The inertia-driven Affinity 3 is available in 12 and 20 gauge. Future Companion shotguns will feature German shorthaired pointers, English setters, American pointers and Brittany spaniels.

The Remington V3 has a reputation as a reliable, feature-filled shotgun at a reasonable price. Two new pro models – Turkey Pro dressed in Realtree Timber and the Waterfowl Pro in Realtree Max-5 or Mossy Oak Shadow Grass Blades camo with a Cerakote receiver – are coming to Canada later this year. The Waterfowl Pro's bronzed receiver looks sharp, giving the shotgun a custom look when compared with full-dipped guns. In addition to the standard V3 features, the Turkey Pro ships with Truglo's optic sight and Head-banger choke, while the Waterfowl Pro includes three extended chokes (improved modified, modified, and full) and a sling.

#### MUZZLELOADERS

Typically, long-range shooting and muzzleloaders are not synonymous, but that's about to change with the CVA Paramount muzzleloader. Using heavy powder charges, a new ignition system, special bullets and free-floating barrel, the .45-calibre Paramount claims to deliver kill shots to 300 yards and beyond.

A 140-grain load of Blackhorn 209 powder launches PowerBelt ELR (Extreme Long Range) high ballistic-coefficient bullets at 2,200 feet per second. The stock inherits a full-length integrated mini-chassis from the Bergara HMR rifle. The Paramount's VariFlame Breech Plug, a technology by Canadian inventor Cecil Epps, uses a large rifle primer, rather than the 209 shotshell primer, for hotter and more consistent ignition. Muzzleloaders are not classified as firearms in the US, and so are easier to export to Canada, and this model should be available and ready to hunt in Canada by the fall.

#### PRS RIFLES

If PRS shooting is your game, look no further than two well-known Canadian manufacturers for rifles, chassis and accessories.

Cadex Defence expands its CDX-R7 line with two new precision rifles: the CDX-R7 Sheepdog (short action) and the Shepherd (long action) in nine popular long-range calibres. The rifles feature Cadex's fully adjustable synthetic stock, called the Strike Nuke Evo, designed for shooters who prefer a traditional-style stock to the chassis system. Unique features include a four-lug bolt with 50-degree bolt throw, a straight taper fluted match-grade barrel and DX2 Evo two-stage trigger, which easily converts from single stage to double stage within seconds.

Cadex also released a compact, ultralight shooting platform called the Field QD chassis for short-action calibres. The Chassis is built to fit the Rem 700 or Cadex R7 action footprint. It features a Magpul retractable buttstock with push-button takedown, a finger-grooved Cadex rubberized grip



**350 LEGEND**

The 350 Legend is the world's fastest straight-walled hunting cartridge. A cartridge built for the modern sportsman. The straight-walled design allows for this high performing rifle cartridge to be used in states that allow the use of straight-walled cartridges for hunting. Speaking of performance, the 350 Legend boasts more muzzle energy than .30-30 Winchester, 300 Blackout and 223 Remington and less recoil than .243 Winchester, yet still offering 20% more penetration. **Inside 300 yards, it's the most versatile cartridge on the market.**

**MORE ENERGY THAN 30-30 WIN., 300 BLACKOUT AND 223 REM**

**WORLD'S FASTEST STRAIGHT-WALLED HUNTING CARTRIDGE**

**WINCHESTER**

**350 LEGEND 145 GRAIN** | FULL METAL JACKET

WARNING: Keep out of reach of children. Read all warnings on package. **MADE IN USA**  
 AVERTISSEMENT: Tenir hors de la portée des enfants. Lire tous les avertissements sur l'emballage.

**WINCHESTER**

**X SUPER X**

**350 LEGEND 180 GRAIN** | POINTED BOULET

WARNING: Keep out of reach of children. Read all warnings on package. **MADE IN USA**  
 AVERTISSEMENT: Tenir hors de la portée des enfants. Lire tous les avertissements sur l'emballage.

**WINCHESTER**

**DEER SEASON X**

**350 LEGEND 150 GRAIN** | EXTREME POINT

A new straight-wall cartridge from Winchester, the 350 Legend, is designed to have more energy than the 30-30 and less recoil than the 450 Bushmaster.



Engraving on the Franchi Affinity 3 Companion series, featuring a Labrador retriever for 2019.



and a 20 MOA full-length top trail.

MDT released an impressive array of precision rifle products, many of which were seen for the first time at SHOT Show. MDT's new ACC (Adjustable Core Competition) chassis is designed around an integrated, modular weight system which allows you to customize the balance and mass of your rifle to maximize performance and minimize recoil. After all, extra weight always soaks up recoil, helping to keep the rifle on target. The ACC uses a steel butt pad plate for added weight and a dedicated space to add even more weight if desired. The ACC chassis includes a full Arca rail, running the entire length of the forend, and M-LOK mounting points for accessories and additional forend weights. An additional nine pounds of recoil-absorbing steel can be added to your rifle, meaning complete rifle systems can weigh as much as 30 pounds.

There are updates and enhancements across the board in the Gen-2 versions of the Tac21, LSS Gen2, LSS-XL and LSS-RF Gen2 lines. MDT also recently acquired CKYE-POD bipods, complementing the other products in their accessory line.

For shooters wanting to try PRS without breaking the bank, the ORYX Chassis by MDT is worth a close look. The ORYX is a one-piece integrated aluminum chassis and buttstock created to improve the consistency and accuracy of a bolt-action rifle. The chassis includes an adjustable comb, M-LOK slots on the bottom of the forend to attach bipods and other accessories, MDT's contoured pistol grip and a flared magazine well to speed up loading. The mag well doubles as a barricade stop. The chassis includes multiple

QD attachment points.

ORYX is available now for the Remington 700, Howa 1500 and Tikka T3 action, with models for the Remington 783, Howa Mini and Ruger American slated soon. The retail price is \$399 USD, so Canadian prices will vary based on the exchange rate. The chassis is built by MDT and distributed by Legacy Arms International.

#### AIR RIFLES

Airguns have a dedicated following and these days there is an airgun built for everyone's interests. From the DPMS SPR that shoots 400 rounds per minute on full-auto to Umarex's Legends Cowboy Lever Action, an authentic reproduction of the 1892 Winchester lever action. These guns are fun to shoot, and with realistic size and weight, many are suitable for indoor training during our long, cold Canadian winters.

For hunting, the .25-calibre Umarex Gauntlet is worth a look. It's a regulated PCP airgun, meaning it'll deliver up to 27 powerful shots from one fill of its high-capacity tank. It shoots a 25-grain pellet at 895 feet per second, delivering 45 foot pounds of varmint-thumping energy. A built-in regulator delivers consistent velocity from shot-to-shot. This bolt-action repeater uses an eight-shot magazine, and these rifles will be available in Canada this spring.

There you have it, a small subset of the many new sporting guns at the 41st SHOT Show in Las Vegas. Every year, new and innovative products are presented to the shooting and hunting industry, and this year didn't disappoint. Next year it'll be even bigger, with additional show space and more vendors! 🍷





# HANDGUNS

BY WALLY FONG





Glock's G48 is a single stack pistol with a slim profile.

If you don't walk the trade show floor with a purpose, it's easy to get lost in the SHOT Show's bright lights and flashy products. So, this year I had myself dialed in on handguns and everything surrounding them. The following is what I found interesting in 2019, starting with the guns themselves and moving on to the accessories that work with them.

I would be remiss if I didn't address the obvious gorilla in the room first, Glock. Just like last year when Glock reinvented their failed MHS bid with the US Army and branded it the Glock 19X crossover, as well as the debut of the Canadian Glock 19, this year Glock has introduced their Silver Slimline series of pistols. These are the G48 and G43X. The G43X, being a compact CCW pistol, has virtually no chance of making it into Canada due to barrel length.

The G48, on the other hand, should be able to make its way north of the 48th parallel, similar to how the Canadian G19 did, with a legal 106-millimetre barrel. The G48 most noticeably has a silver-coloured slide, versus the standard black, and the overall profile is much thinner, giving the pistol a more 1911-style grip and feel. It's a single stack and notably lacking an accessory rail, something many people were moaning about during the show. However, it has front serrations cut into the slide, maybe that balances the negatives out? Time will tell.

Beretta debuted updates to their MHS submitted pistol this year as well. The APX from Beretta, although losing out on the MHS bid, has been updated to be optics ready and is also offered in a multitude of two-tone colour combinations. And speaking of colours,

FN's 509 Tactical, which was launched quite a while ago as a high-end combat pistol, with all the bells and whistles, is now available in black as well as the original tan. Apparently, customer feedback indicated that if you're shelling out \$1,000 for a pistol, it should be available in more than one colour.

However, if you're looking for an alternative to what the 509 Tactical offers and can't bring yourself to drop over \$1,000, look no further than Canik's TP9 Elite Combat pistol. This is a striker-fired pistol developed in conjunction with Salient Arms International (SAI). They are well known for tuning and custom-building excellent pistols and have teamed with Canik to bring to market what looks to be an excellent pistol package. SAI contributed a match-grade fluted barrel, enhanced magazine well and fibre

Canik teamed with Salient Arms International to produce the feature-loaded TP9 Elite Combat.



optic sights. On top of an enhanced trigger, extended magazine release and multiple optic-ready adapter plates, comes a charging handle IPSC and 3-Gunners can rejoice over. This pistol looks and handles incredibly well. The reset on the trigger is crisp and short with virtually no slack, and the geometry of the pistol grip allows for a very high grip which is aided by an undercut on the trigger guard. This complete pistol package easily rivals the FN 509 Tactical with a price point that's almost \$200 less right out of the box. I highly recommend a further look into Canik's TP9 Elite Combat.

The CZ P-10F, F for full sized, is CZ's polymer offering to the striker-fired world. This nicely gripped pistol has a redesigned geometry for better handling for right- and left-handed shooters, thanks to better-placed palm

swells and a more pronounced beavertail. Many lefties were complaining about the placement of the magazine release on last year's model, so CZ adjusted its placement and south-paws couldn't be happier now. Along with the P-10F, their legendary line of Shadow and Shadow 2 pistols have been a mainstay among competition shooters for years, and thankfully CZ knows a good thing when they have it, with no changes made to that line.

For those that just want a nice, cost-effective plinker, the Smith & Wesson SW22 Victory is an elegantly made 22LR rimfire pistol that feels like it melts into your hands when you're gripping it. It's a much more polished pistol than say the Ruger Mark IV, which costs roughly \$100 more.

Topping off my list of notable pistols at SHOT this year is a home-grown

Canadian one. Kodiak Defence, who recently have had great success with their variation of the AR-180B build, the WK-180-C, unveiled an in-house designed, all-Canadian pistol, the KDSP 9. I spoke with Shawn at Kodiak Defence at length about his baby and I am genuinely thrilled with this polymer-framed striker-fired pistol. The KDSP 9 looks like it draws some inspiration from the classic Sig Sauer P226, but when you pick it up it feels like you're holding a CZ Shadow 2. Built into the trigger pack are firing pin drop and trigger safeties. A rear visual red nub, as well as a physical raised notch on top of the slide both indicate a round is chambered. Front and rear serrations on the slide give the shooter a choice as to how to rack it. A fairly large, but not obtrusive, magazine release button is positive to

Aimpoint introduced their ACRO P-1 sight at SHOT.



the touch and you don't have to break your grip when engaging it. The pistol rounds itself out with an accessory rail and a clean look. I'm certainly looking forward to seeing production models of the KDSP 9 soon.

Let's hit optics now. Many people have been talking up a storm about Aimpoint's ACRO P-1 red dot sight. "It's too big." "It's a block mess." "It's ugly!" In reality, the ACRO is the same size as a Trijicon RMR, but encased. This 3.5 MOA mini red dot sight (MRDS) is definitely made with combat in mind, instead of competition. But that's not to say you couldn't use it for any application. It's waterproof down to 25 metres and is tough enough to take the abuse. The light intensity buttons on the left side of the MRDS are idiot proof, with clear arrows indicating up and down for its 10 levels, four of which are for night

vision capability. The only downside I could see with the ACRO is that the battery life is rated at roughly 10,000 hours or approximately one year of use. Since it's a constant-on optic, there's not much you can do to get around that, other than stocking up on CR1225 batteries.

Shield Sights of the United Kingdom has been supplying the British Armed Forces for years with their battle-proven RMS mini red dot sight. Their line of pistol-sized sights is called the SMS line and has six models to choose from this year. The unique setup and design of their MRDS allows the installation of this optic without having to swap out existing pistol sights. While sights like the Trijicon RMR, Burris Fast Fire, Leupold Delta Point and others require suppressor-height sights in order to be in line, Shield Sights' SMS line all co-witness at regular pistol sight height.

This gives an advantage to shooting more accurately at longer distances and provides a lower silhouette and profile on top of the slide. The SMSc is an ultra-compact 1 MOA sight that was designed to be mounted on slimmer-profile pistols, such as 1911's, CCW pistols like the G43, M&P Shield, or the Walther PPQ Q5 Match, and perfect for the Silver Slimline series of pistols from Glock. The company also offers custom colours and finishes on their MRDS, which is a fun option, especially for competition shooters that want to add flare to their pistols. Since Shield Sights is a British-based company, there are no ITAR restrictions and they will ship anywhere in the world.

Strike Industries, of California, has been innovating new products for some time now and have gone all in on supporting Glock pistols this year. The one

Magpul is now producing 10-round magazines for the Glock 17/19 series of pistols.



product that caught my eye immediately was their Glock Universal (optics) Mount or GUM for short. It is an optics mounting plate that requires zero milling of your slide. The GUM slides into the existing rear sight notch on the slide and is further held in place with six set screws. It comes with a variant that you can attach a charging handle to, which is great for competition shooters. The GUM can accommodate most MRDS on the market, making it what I think is a brilliant, non-permanent optics mounting solution.

Their Mass Driver comp is also a non-permanent solution to adding a compensator to your Glock. Much like their G4 Comp, it attaches to the guide rod on your pistol instead of a threaded barrel, which are sometimes hard to come by in Canada. Strike Industries also carries a full line of

anti-walking pins, slide plate covers, grip tools, striker spring packs for the Glock, as well as excellent iron sights with changeable front post blades. Additionally, Strike Industries will also be offering their own barrels and slides by the second quarter of 2019.

Magpul has recognized the need for developing reliable and durable magazines, and knowing the restrictions of certain states like California or countries like Canada with 10-round limits, they have come up with the PMAG 10 GL9 series for Glock 17/19. With optimized geometry inside the magazine to specifically only hold 10 rounds, this magazine, unlike pinned magazines, can be disassembled for cleaning and cannot be modified to hold more rounds. It's also compatible with past and current enhanced magazine wells that Magpul also manufactures. When

these magazines come to Canada, they should be a huge hit.

And to wrap things up, all my honourable mentions this year go to Israeli companies. To address the complaints from some people regarding no rails on the new Glock G48 and G43X slimline, Recover Tactical has a rail adapter to specifically fill that requirement. Fobus has prototyped the TRP2 modular holster system with which the user can hot swap specific items to a universal mounting system on a thigh rig setup. And lastly, Fab Defense debuted their Glock Cobra stock, a foldable shoulder brace that attaches to your Glock pistol for added stability. Overall, SHOT Show 2019 was another successful trip. I covered a lot of ground looking for pistol innovations and new products, and I'm excited to see what the rest of 2019 has to offer! 🍀





# OPTICS, AMMUNITION & ACCESSORIES

BY AL VOTH

**T**he 2019 SHOT Show in Las Vegas carried on the tradition it has established for the previous 40 years of highlighting new products in the shooting world. While this magazine's other writers searched out new guns, I dug around the show floor to find what's new in optics, ammunition and accessories.

## OPTICS

There are always new optics at SHOT and this year was no exception. What was unusual is the extent to which technology is integrating into shooting optics. The term "electro-optics" is being used to describe this change and it's as good a descriptor as I've heard.

A good example is a new laser range-finding binocular by Zeiss. Of course, it's a typical 10x42 binocular with superb optics, integrated into a laser range finder. But this optic pairs with your smart phone, through which you can load up to nine ballistic profiles into the bino. Once in the field, the binocular monitors environmental conditions and, when called upon, computes a ballistic solution to its 2,500-yard maximum range. Leupold introduced a similar offering and if you're in the market for a full-featured LRF binocular, it will pay to do your research, compare features and make sure you are getting something which will meet your needs. And, like always, whether it's TVs or shooting gear, if you must have the latest in technology, you better have deep pockets.

Rifle scopes aren't immune from the electro-optics revolution either. I saw

scopes with built-in rangefinders, angle compensation and weather stations from both Zeiss and Swarovski. They "talk" to your smart phone as well, but the price to carry on these conversations is around the \$5,000 US mark.

Meanwhile, back in the real world, Leupold has a new red dot sight that generated more buzz than all the high-tech gear I saw. It's a non-magnifying, short-tube sight with a 1 MOA dot. The sight ships complete with a mount and is available with or without a CDS dial for range compensation. I'm told that when testing to destruction, factory techs were shocked to find they couldn't destroy it with any of their standard tests. It should be available in Canada for less than \$500.

Vortex has a reduced number of new offerings this year, but I'm told more announcements will be com-



Three new laser range-finding binoculars were introduced at the SHOT Show. This is Leupold's entry.

ing throughout 2019. I did see a new version of their laser range-finding binocular with an improved 5,000-yard capability and a faster processor. It doesn't have all the electro-optic bells and whistles, but it's also half the price. But my favourite idea from Vortex is their new line of rings. What sets them apart is the information etched directly on the product, including torque specs, ring size and ring height. I think it's a great idea and would love to see other manufacturers do something similar.

## AMMUNITION

Unlike some years, there was only one new cartridge unveiled at SHOT this year, the 350 Legend from Winchester.▶

It's covered in detail elsewhere in this issue, so I won't discuss it here. Look at its specifications and see if you think it'll be a popular offering.

Sierra, the well-known manufacturer of bullets for handloading, announced they will be producing their own line of ammunition, loaded, of course, with Sierra bullets. That caught me by surprise, until I got to thinking that Hornady and Nosler have been doing this for years. So, I guess, it's just a natural evolutionary step in the story of a successful company. I have no information on when this may be available in Canada.

Hornady also announced some new ammunition offerings, including their new Outfitter line of rifle cartridges.

This is premium hunting ammunition for rifles, featuring non-lead bullets, waterproofing at primer and case mouth, with nickel cases for maximum corrosion resistance. There are also more offerings in a broad range of lines, including 300 Blackout, 224 Valkyrie with 60 and 75-grain bullets, 6mm Creedmoor, 300 PRC and even 348 Winchester.

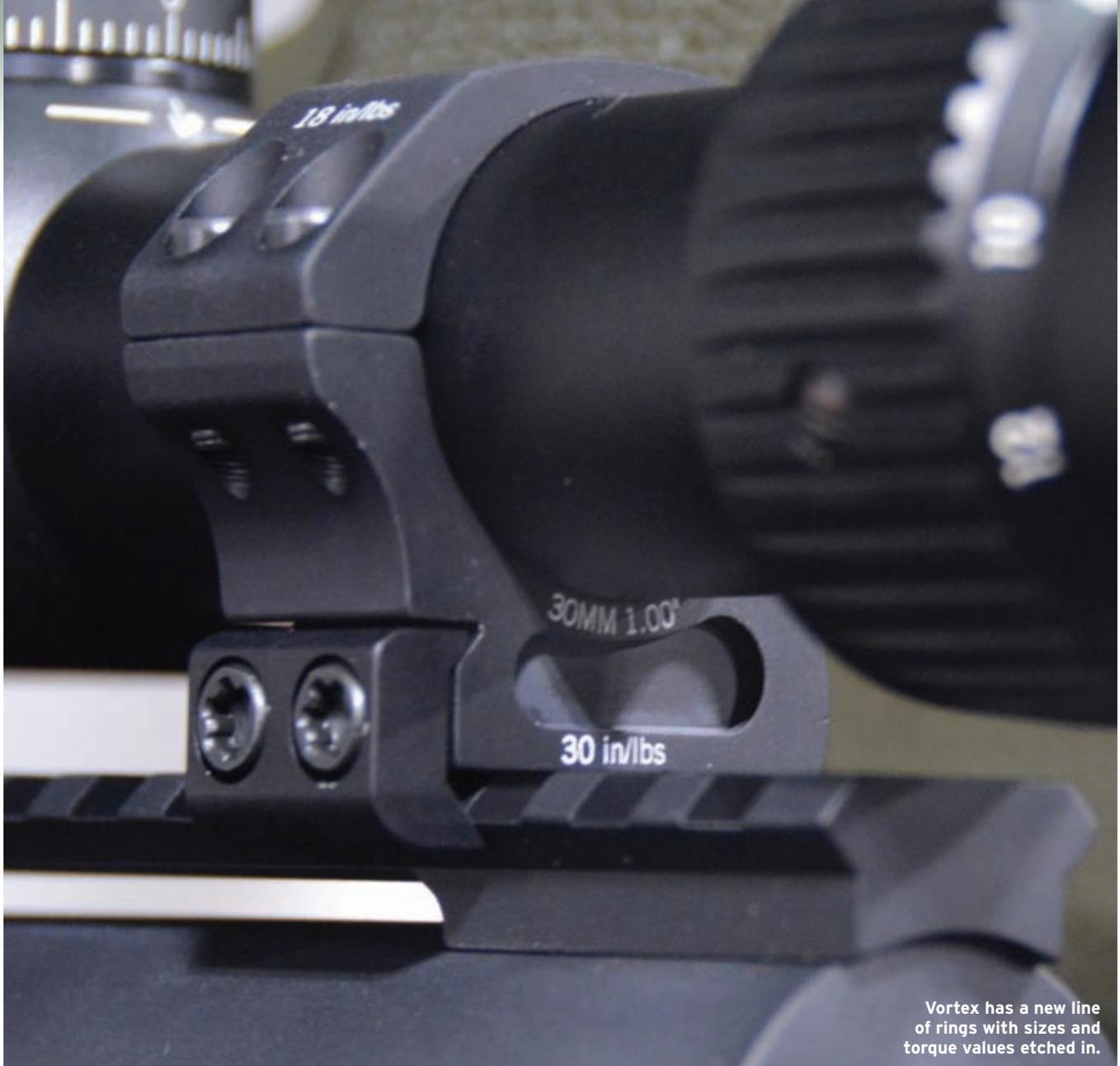
Many shooters are familiar with Aguila's mini shotshells. These one-and-three-quarter-inch 12-gauge shells are a neat way to increase shotgun magazine capacity for 3-Gun competitors and pack an almost-full-power punch. They've been a niche product for years, and they have been hard to find and expensive. Now Federal has

jumped on the mini-shell bus too, as they are producing similarly sized slugs and birdshot loads. The slugs are one-ounce lead, while the shot load delivers 15 to 16 ounces of #8. Unfortunately, I have no info on pricing.

And just to prove you can have fun with ammunition, one company was plugging "ammunition in a beverage can." They take standard aluminum beverage cans, fill them with ammunition and seal them against the elements. They can fit 90 rounds of 9mm Luger in one can, or 40 rounds of 223 Rem or 7.62x39mm. Of course, there's an apocalyptic theme decorating the can. So, if you want to squirrel away a supply of ammunition for the zombie apocalypse, this is a fun way to do it.



Leupold's tube-style red dot sight comes with a mount and an optional CDS dial, all at an attractive price.



Vortex has a new line of rings with sizes and torque values etched in.

## HANDLOADING

This will be a good year for handloaders, as there were several significant new items on display. They included two new presses from Dillon, a company that hasn't added anything major to their line for years. Most significant is their deletion of the legendary 1050 press in favour of a redesigned and improved version called the 1100. Staff at the Dillon booth told me there are no radical changes, just an assortment of modifications that will improve reliability and smoothness. Sitting beside the 1100 was the 2000, a press built on obviously the same platform, but equipped to operate solely for brass preparation. In other words, the press de-primers, swages primer pockets, sizes, trims, chamfers and carries out several inspections, spitting out brass which, except for polishing, is ready to

reload. Both presses will be well over \$2,000 CAD and could push the \$3,000 mark.

Another specialized press showed up courtesy of Frankford Arsenal. With the current craze in precision rifle, they saw a demand for a press which is capable of loading highly concentric (which means accurate) ammunition. It's called the M-Press and works on a co-axial principle in which the cartridge case and the die float, thus ensuring optimal alignment of the two pieces and minimal cartridge runout. Knowledgeable handloaders will notice a resemblance to Forster's Co-Ax press, but I'm told this one will be about half the price.

Lyman was showing off a new bench-mounted, motorized case trimmer designed for rifle cartridges. It's claimed to do 15 cases a minute and doesn't need pilots. Other new items

from them include an improved powder trickler, mechanical scale and press dust cover. Some handloaders will also like their new riser. It's a metal stand which elevates a handloading press about nine inches above your bench. For shooters with a bench that's too low to work at comfortably, this will be a great item.

Hornady is never left out when the question is, "What's new?" And this year is no exception. They have a new vibratory case tumbler/polisher, as well as a case and parts drier for those who clean cases with wet media. Add in a few new hand tools and it's a typical Hornady year. New bullets include a .22 calibre 88-grain ELD Match, a 6mm 90-grain ELD-X, a 7mm 150-grain GMX and a .308 calibre 125-grain FMJ. Hornady also has some new empty cases for handloaders, including the 224 >



MDT's Ckye-Pod is nothing less than a machining work of art.

Valkyrie, 300 PRC, the 22 Creedmoor and more. No, that's not a typo. They are producing cases for the 22 Creedmoor, even though it's a wildcat with no factory ammunition available and there are no SAMMI specs.

MTM, the company that makes those plastic cartridge boxes used by every handloader in the world, has finally added a plastic ammunition box for shotshells. It's the same size as a 12-gauge paper shotshell box and so will fit in a shotgun competitor's belt pouch. They come in packs of four, and if you reload shotshells these will sure beat your frayed paper boxes.

#### ACCESSORIES

Kestrel, the company which has established itself as the gold standard in weather meters, was showing off a couple of new items. First up was the 2700,



Federal has entered the mini-shell market with a 12-gauge offering.



Frankford Arsenal's new co-axial press for precision handloading.

an entry-level weather meter which does all the basics without breaking the bank. I'm going to guesstimate a price of about \$250 CAD. But don't expect it to talk to your smartphone at that price. Moving up the line is the new 5000 series (which replaces the 4000 series). Here we start to see more data sensing, as well as on-board ballistic programs by Applied Ballistics. And depending on licensing arrangements, some will feature the ability to communicate with various manufacturer's scopes, binoculars and rangefinders. Canadian pricing will likely start at about \$500 and go up to \$1,000. And lastly, Kestrel was showing a heads-up-display unit that attaches to a rifle's Picatinny rail and displays a range card which is constantly updated depending on environmental data sensed by a nearby Kestrel unit. This add-on will cost at

least \$500 CAD.

Shooting supports were everywhere at SHOT. One of my favourites was the BLK LBL bipod, a Canadian bipod system that replaces the handguard on AR-15 and AR-10 rifles, as well as some bolt-action rifles. Another great one was MDT's Ckye-Pod. It's a more conventional design, but it is noteworthy for how beautifully it's machined and how versatile it is. Depending on the gun your equipping and your needs, you won't go wrong with either one. Both fit into the "you get what you pay for" category, so don't expect any change from \$500.

During range day, Magnetospeed got to show off some of its hit indicators on the long range. These aren't new, but it was the first time I've seen them in use, and they are slick. A hit on a steel target illuminates a bright

red light, which peeks over the edge of the steel. They are the best way I've seen to confirm hits at long distance. And when your barrel gets so hot you have to stop shooting for fear of burning out the throat, the same company introduced the RIFLEKÜHL. This is a small, battery-operated fan which slips into a rifle's chamber and is held there by magnets. Switch it on and it forces air through the barrel, cooling it much quicker.

Of course, there's much more. However, that's all I have room for here. I'll be trying to get my hands on some of these products to do more in-depth testing, but just because it was shown at SHOT doesn't mean it's available now. Most items are at least several months away from being available to consumers, making patience a requirement for us all. 🍷

BROWNELLS

# Retro

RETRO 4X  
RIFLE SCOPE



BRN16E1  
UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



BRN-605  
CARBINE



BRN-PROTO  
RIFLE



BRN-601  
UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



BRN-605  
UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



XBRN177E2  
UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



BRN16A1  
UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



XBRN177E2  
NO PIN UPPER RECEIVER ASSEMBLY



Shooting guns and gear not allowed in Canada is one of the treats at the annual SHOT Show.

# SHOT SHOW

# MODERN SPORTING GUNS

BY DEAN ROXBY

While this year's SHOT Show seemed quieter on the black gun front, there were still some items of note to be seen.

I mentioned in my 2018 SHOT report that the so-called Trump Effect has placed a noticeable chill on the firearms industry. During the Obama years, the constant fear of sweeping gun bans fuelled a tremendous buying spree, lasting virtually his entire eight-year term. With the election of a gun-friendly President Trump, the urgency to stock up on guns, "black" guns in particular, disappeared overnight. It is ironic that in the short-term, an unfriendly Democrat administration was far better for gun sales than a supportive Republican one, yet that was indeed the case.

Brownells, the gunsmith supply folks, have an intriguing line of reproduction AR-10 and AR-15/M16-style rifles

in their Retro series. These rifles are faithful reproductions of the early Eugene Stoner designs, dating back to the mid 1950s. Two varieties of AR-10 are available, along with experimental and prototype versions of the AR-15, and early versions of what would become the M16. These will be of great interest to Vietnam War historians and re-enactors. The Brownells website has more details.

M+M Industries had their M10X rifle on display. They refer to the M10X as the International Defense Rifle, as it borrows proven design features from around the world. During a brief chat with CEO Mike Meier, he mentioned that the Canadian version is of a higher standard than the ones built for the domestic US market. He explained that price is all important in the US market. If they are competing against parts kit-type AK rifles from Bulgaria,

some upgrades and cosmetic improvements need to be deleted in order to keep prices low. Hey, it is nice to be on the winning side, even if the Canadian guns cost more.

Canadian-based manufacturer Kodiak Defence showed off the hugely popular (in Canada, that is) WK 180-C, and a prototype of the 7.62x39mm version to be known as the WK 181-C. The release of the 181-C version will not happen until the backlog of 180-C is cleared up. That is certainly understandable. It was nice to see a Canadian company showing off firearms at a US trade show.

Speaking of which, Cadex had a large booth on the main show floor. Many of their beautifully crafted, tactical bolt-action rifles and chassis systems were displayed. As well, on the day prior to the actual show at the Sands Expo Center, Cadex took part in the Media >



The Kodiak Defence booth and their new WK 181-C rifle.

Day at the Range event. Assisting and coaching shooters was none other than former CF sniper and world-record holder, Rob Furlong. With Rob's guidance, and a suppressed Cadex CDX-33 Patriot TAC rifle in .338 Lapua, I was able to hit a steel gong at a lasered 1,089 yards, three times out of three. Achieving that was a proud moment; but having Mr. Furlong say, "Good shooting" afterwards was even sweeter.

I wrote about the Skeli X11 last year, as I found it to be an interesting new gun. I hoped to see them again this year, but they seemed to be in stealth mode. I did not see them listed on the SHOT exhibitor website, so I tried contacting them directly. After a long delay, they did reply, saying they were sharing space with another vendor. After further delay, they announced the booth number. I did not have time to visit the first day, but I did stop by late in the afternoon on day two, only to learn they had packed up and returned home shortly before. I suspect it is a small, family-run machine shop and they cannot be away for a full week. Unfortunate, because I really would like to see them do well. Hopefully next year.

FN of Belgium has a new semi-only





It's unknown if the FN SCAR 20S will be approved for sale in Canada.

civilian version of the SCAR rifle, this being the SCAR 20S. It is an update of the SCAR 16S and 17S rifles. (The SCAR 16S is the 5.56x45 version, while the SCAR 17S is chambered in 7.62x51, as is the new 20S.) All three types are of short-stroke gas piston operation. The 20S does away with the odd-looking side folding stocks of the earlier designs. It has a fixed stock with adjustable length of pull and cheek rest height. It also features a 20-inch heavy-profile barrel and a match-grade Geissele trigger. The earlier 16S

and 17S were both deemed prohibited in Canada, as they were ruled to be easily converted to full auto. This newer version has not yet been ruled on, so perhaps we may get it approved. No hurry, as the suggested US price is \$4,499. Yikes!

At the previously mentioned Media Day shoot, ST Engineering from Singapore had a display in the non-shooting area. Several guns were displayed, including the Ultimax 100 light machine gun, and the SAR-21, both in service with the Singaporean military. Also

shown was the newer BR18 bullpup rifle. They said this was their first year here and they hope to have a shooting booth next year. And naturally, they hope to market semi-auto civilian versions of the SAR-21 and BR18 to the US public soon. If so, perhaps they could come to Canada eventually.

In last year's report, I mentioned seeing at least three different types of Turkish-made 12-gauge shotguns of bullpup configuration. This year, I saw two more brand names of bullpup 12-gauge. It seems that the arms >



The new Kodiak Defence WK 181-C rifle.



The Supra-1, by Emperor Arms of Turkey.



The Compact, by Kral Arms of Turkey.



The Umarex Hammer is a .50-calibre airgun.

industry in Turkey is really coming on strong. From Emperor Arms comes the Supra-1 BP-12, and from Kral Arms comes the Compact. Both designs fire two-and-three-quarter-inch and three-inch shells. The Compact uses mags of two, five or eight rounds, while the BP-12 mags are five rounds. I did not learn about any Canadian importers yet, but I would not be at all surprised if someone is already planning to import

these guns.

And finally, while it may not be the typical idea of a “black” rifle, I want to mention the mighty Umarex Hammer air rifle. A two-shot air rifle certainly is not a combat rifle, but it is a very modern design, made with polymer furniture. The Hammer is a .50-calibre brute, running on 4,500 PSI of compressed air. This punches a large hole deep into any animal it strikes, includ-

ing African cape buffalo. Seriously. During the testing phase, a buffalo was harvested with a single shot to put it down, and one more to finish it. Amazing! The Hammer is finally set to release this spring in the US, followed by a Canadian non-suppressed version soon after. Before the September hunting season, I was told. I am arranging to borrow a test gun, so watch for a report. 🍀



Arrange a meeting with your member of parliament to discuss your concerns about firearms legislation.

# GETTING ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES ONSIDE

BY CHRIS MCGARRY

Since the mid-1990s, Canada's firearms community has grown tremendously and has become a stronger, unified political force.

This upsurge in firearms ownership and advocacy is the direct opposite of what antigun forces, both at home and in the United Nations, hoped would happen. In some ways, Canadians have gone against the grain of civilian disarmament that has become the norm in the UK, Australia and Western Europe. Decades of vicious attacks on their rights by gun-banning politicians and groups such as the Coalition for Gun Control have turned many Canadian gunnies into single-issue voters. Come election time, the preservation of their freedoms is the most important issue on their minds when casting a vote. Other firearm owners place gun rights on their list of important election issues, but not always at the forefront.

Like voters, politicians have concerns and matters they wish to address. Sadly, like many gun owners who vote, firearms rights are not always of utmost importance to our elected represen-

tatives. Health care, the economy, environmental issues and world affairs often take precedence over matters pertaining to individual liberty. While voting is an essential civic duty, firearms owners who want their voices heard must do a lot of the legwork.

It isn't uncommon for the average member of parliament to have little or no understanding of Canada's gun laws, including the fact that all firearms ownership is illegal without a plastic card issued from the Canadian Firearms Centre. Some MPs are well-versed in how convoluted this legislation is and seek to appease the firearms vote by rescinding some, but not all, of our bad legislation. Other MPs, usually those who lean left-of-centre, still cling to the outdated mindset that gun control legislation is needed to enhance public safety. These elected representatives are often the most difficult to speak to as it can be frustrating to convince them otherwise.

If firearms owners strongly desire positive changes that will eventually return many of their rights, they need

to not only write e-mails and sign petitions, but also speak face-to-face with their members of parliament. Arranging a meeting with your MP can be tricky during the year when the House of Commons is in session, but it's considerably easier in the upcoming summer months when they are busy touring Canada as part of the traditional barbecue circuit, meeting with voters and constituents.

What MPs fear most is not getting re-elected. Several years ago, Wayne Easter, (Liberal, Malpeque) publicly stated that gun control cost the Liberals a whopping 60 seats in rural Canada during the 2006 election. The current government seems to have forgotten this lesson, but that just makes this summer a good time to remind them of it with a personal visit. As the old saying goes, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." Discussing firearms politics on social media is beneficial to a point, but in order to have our voices heard and listened to, we must take the lead and step away from the keyboard to get the legislators on our side. 



# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Police & Other Public Officers Work Under A Different Set Of Rules



Police forces, and certain other public officers, do indeed play under a very different set of rules.

When it comes to firearms, police forces and other public employees who possess or carry firearms are not subject to the same rules as me and you. Here is a legal overview.

### POSSESSION & LICENSING

Canadian gun control legislation, as it

currently stands, is predicated upon two basic principles:

1. Possession, transport and/or carry of a firearm are criminal offences, unless the person who possesses, transports or carries the firearm is authorized by law to do so. This is reflected throughout the *Criminal Code* and *Firearms Act*,

2. Licenses to possess and authorizations to carry or to transport firearms are issued on a discretionary basis<sup>1</sup>, and subject to such conditions as the chief firearms officer deems appropriate<sup>2</sup>. These are viewed

by law as privileges<sup>3</sup>, as opposed to rights, and can thus be revoked at any time by the authority that issued them.

You and I require a firearms licence in order to merely possess a firearm. Restricted and prohibited firearms require authorizations to carry and to transport. Those authorizations are also discretionary and very limited in scope. Licenses and authorizations are essentially temporary immunities granted to persons, who are deemed safe by government authorities, to possess firearms in limited circumstances.

Unlike me and you, police officers and other designated public officers are not subject to such restrictions. Indeed, buried deep in the Canadian *Criminal Code* is Subsection 117.07(1). That little-known provision has profound implications. In essence, it grants immunity to certain public officers for actions in relation to firearms and other devices, actions which would otherwise constitute criminal offences. Those immunities apply only to actions and omissions that take place in the course of the public officer's duties.

The public officers who enjoy those immunities include the following: police and other peace officers (such as prison wardens, border and customs agents); members of the Canadian Armed Forces; students at police academies; members of visiting armed forces; chief firearms officers; and certain federal, provincial or municipal public servants designated by regulations<sup>4</sup>. The latter include employees in charge of storage and transportation of court exhibits and evidence; employees of police forces charged with procurement, storage or maintenance of firearms; forensic laboratory technicians; park wardens; immigration officers; security personnel of the House of Commons and the Senate and the Parliamentary Protective Service.

#### A BROAD RANGE OF IMMUNITIES

The actions and omissions that are immune from criminal prosecution include possession of any firearm (including prohibited firearms), without restriction as to where and how such firearms may be possessed. Hence, public officers are not required to be licensed in order to possess or use firearms; neither do they need authorizations to carry a restricted or prohibited firearm. Further, they are

not required to comply with common firearms transportation and storage rules unless they store firearms in a common dwelling. Instead, they are subject to a set of much simpler and less onerous rules to be found in the *Public Agents Firearms Regulations*<sup>5</sup>. Thus, their pistols and other firearms may be carried and transported unlocked and fully loaded, even concealed. Since they are allowed to possess and carry prohibited devices, they can use full capacity magazines. Those immunities are easy to understand, in view of the nature of the duties fulfilled by some of the public officers to whom those immunities are extended.

Other immunities from criminal prosecution enjoyed by public officers are a little harder to understand. Indeed, those other immunities extend to the manufacture, transfer, export, import and alteration of a firearm, etc. The latter includes conversion of a semi-automatic firearm to fully automatic. One justification that I can fathom for those exceptions is that they may be required in the context of police sting and infiltration operations.

Yet, other immunities are completely unfathomable. By way of example, public officers are exempt from prosecution for "destroying or failing to report the loss or theft of a firearm" or the destruction of a firearm. This does not mean a complete lack of accountability. Indeed, they are required to report lost or stolen firearms that belong to their agency<sup>6</sup>. However, there is no corresponding statutory duty to report the loss, theft or destruction of non-agency firearms. Given that there are circumstances where public officers may have temporary custody of firearms that belong to individuals who are so accountable, I fail to understand why public officers enjoy that immunity.

#### SOME SPECIAL RULES

The gun range use is another area where different rules apply to public officers. Indeed, in Canada, the operation of shooting ranges is governed by regulations<sup>7</sup> enacted under the *Firearms Act*. However, pursuant to those same regulations, "a shooting range that is used only by public officers within the meaning of subsection 117.07(2) of the *Criminal Code* is exempt from the application of these regulations on condition that each public officer uses the shooting range only in connection with his or

her lawful duties or employment<sup>8</sup>." Arguably, this exemption applies not only to a shooting range that is dedicated for use by public officers, but also to any other range that happens to be reserved for the exclusive use of public officers, at any particular time. Thus, and by way of example, if your range is reserved for the use of the local police force on a given Wednesday afternoon, there is no requirement for the range operator to provide range safety training to first-time users, or even to ensure that a range safety officer is on duty.

Firearms owned by most government agencies are also exempt from the general registration scheme under the Canadian Firearms Program. Instead, those of police forces and some other agencies are registered separately<sup>9</sup>. The recently enacted Quebec Firearms Registration Act also exempts government agency's firearms from registration<sup>10</sup>.

We often hear that police are above the law. Of course, that is not entirely true, at least in most instances. But when it comes to firearms, there is a lot of truth to that saying. Police forces, and certain other public officers, do indeed play under a very different set of rules. 🗡️

#### References

<sup>1</sup>Sections 54 and sq. of the *Firearms Act*.

<sup>2</sup>Section 58 of the *Firearms Act*.

<sup>3</sup>*R. v. Hasselwander*, (1993)2 SCR 398

<sup>4</sup>*Regulations Prescribing Public Officers*, SOR/98-466

<sup>5</sup>SOR/98-203

<sup>6</sup>Section 11 of the *Public Agents Firearms Regulations* (SOR/98-203)

<sup>7</sup>*Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations*, SOR/98-212

<sup>8</sup>Subsection 2 (3) of the *Shooting Clubs and Shooting Ranges Regulations*, SOR/98-212

<sup>9</sup>Section 85 of the *Firearms Act*.

<sup>10</sup>Section 1 of the *Regulation respecting the application of the Firearms Registration Act*.



# Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Pour les policiers et autres agents de l'état,  
les règles sont bien différentes



A tout le moins, le corps policiers et autres fonctionnaires publics n'obéissent pas aux mêmes règles que vous et moi.

**E**n matière d'armes à feu, les policiers et autres fonctionnaires publics obéissent à des règles qui diffèrent de celles qui s'appliquent au public en général. En voici un aperçu d'un point de vue juridique.

## POSSESSION & PERMIS

Le régime canadien de contrôle des armes à feu repose sur deux grands principes :

1. La possession, le transport et le port d'une arme à feu est une infraction criminelle, à moins que la personne n'y soit légalement autorisée. Ce principe se retrouve dans l'ensemble du Code criminel, dont les articles 91 et 893, et de la Loi sur les armes à feu ; et
2. Les permis de possession, ainsi que les autorisations de transport et de port d'armes sont émis sur une base discrétionnaire<sup>1</sup> et peuvent être assujettis aux conditions que le Contrôleur des armes à feu juge appropriées<sup>2</sup>. Ces permis et autorisations sont considérés comme des privilèges et non des droits<sup>3</sup>. Ils peuvent donc être révoqués en tout temps.

Vous et moi devons avoir un permis, ne serait-ce que pour posséder une arme à feu. Les armes à autorisation restreinte et prohibées requièrent une autorisation de port et transport. Ces autorisations sont discrétionnaires et ont une portée limitée. Les permis et autorisations sont, essentiellement, des amnisties temporaires accordées à des personnes jugées fiables, afin de posséder des armes à feu dans des circonstances déterminées.

Les policiers et certains autres fonctionnaires publics ne sont pas assujettis à ces restrictions. En effet, l'article 117.07 du Code Criminel leur accorde une immunité de poursuite à l'égard de plusieurs actes qui seraient autrement criminalisés. Cette immunité ne s'applique qu'aux actes accomplis dans le cadre de leurs

fonctions officielles.

Les fonctionnaires publics qui jouissent de cette immunité sont les suivants : les policiers et autres agents de la paix (tels les gardiens de prison, les agents des services frontaliers et douaniers) ; les membres des forces armées canadiennes et membres des forces armées étrangères présentes en sol canadien ; les Contrôleurs des armes à feu ; les étudiants en techniques policières ; ainsi que certains autres fonctionnaires fédéraux, provinciaux et municipaux désignés par règlement<sup>4</sup>. Cette dernière catégorie englobe des les employés des tribunaux en charge de la gestion des éléments de preuve matériels ; les gestionnaires des approvisionnements et inventaires d'armes à feu ; les techniciens en scènes de crime, les gardes de parcs de conservation, et le personnel de sécurité de la Chambre des communes et du Sénat et du service de protection des parlementaires.

#### IMMUNITÉ

Les gestes et omissions qui font l'objet de ces immunités de poursuite incluent la possession d'armes à feu (y compris les armes à feu et dispositifs prohibés) sans égard aux lieux et à la façon dont ils peuvent posséder de telles armes à feu et dispositifs prohibés. Ainsi, un fonctionnaire public n'a pas à être titulaire d'un permis d'armes à feu et ils n'ont pas plus besoin d'être titulaires d'une autorisation de port d'arme. Ils n'ont pas non plus à se plier aux règles habituelles d'entreposage et de transport d'armes à feu, à moins d'entreposer leurs armes dans un logement. En lieu et place, ils doivent observer les règles édictées dans le Règlement sur les armes à feu des agents publics<sup>5</sup>, qui sont plus simples et moins onéreuses que les règles applicables au grand public. Leurs pistolets peuvent donc être transportés chargés et non verrouillés, voire dissimulés. Puisqu'ils peuvent posséder des dispositifs prohibés, ils peuvent utiliser des chargeurs de pleine capacité. Ces immunités s'expliquent par la nature des tâches

que doivent accomplir certains des fonctionnaires publics auxquels la loi accorde ces immunités.

La raison d'être de certaines autres immunités dont jouissent les fonctionnaires publics est plus difficile à saisir. En effet, ces immunités couvrent des activités telles que la fabrication, la cession, l'importation, l'exportation, et la modification d'une arme à feu. Une explication plausible de ces exceptions est qu'elles peuvent s'avérer utiles dans le cadre de certaines opérations policières, telles les opérations d'infiltration du crime organisé.

La raison d'être d'autres immunités dont jouissent les fonctionnaires publics est pour le moins obscure. Par exemple, les fonctionnaires publics ne peuvent être poursuivis (au criminel) pour la destruction, ou pour avoir fait défaut de déclarer la perte ou le vol d'une arme à feu. Cela n'implique pas un manque total d'obligation de rendre compte. En effet, ils se doivent de rapporter la perte ou le vol des armes à feu qui appartiennent à leurs organismes respectifs<sup>6</sup>. Toutefois, il n'existe pas de devoir correspondant à l'égard des armes à feu des tiers. Puisque ces fonctionnaires publics sont

souvent appelés à détenir des armes à feu appartenant à de tierces parties et que ces tierces parties peuvent être elles mêmes poursuivies pour défaut de rapporter la perte ou le vol en temps opportun, cette immunité pose des inquiétudes et se justifie difficilement.

#### RÈGLES PARTICULIÈRES

L'utilisation des champs de tir est un autre domaine où les fonctionnaires publics jouissent de règles particulières. En effet, bien que l'exploitation de champs de tir soit réglementée<sup>7</sup>, lorsqu'un champ de tir est à l'usage exclusif de fonctionnaires publics, dans le cadre de leurs fonctions officielles, la réglementation ne s'applique pas<sup>8</sup>. Cette exception s'applique non seulement aux champs de tir qui sont dédiés à l'usage des fonctionnaires publics,

mais vraisemblablement aussi à ceux qui leurs sont réservés, à certaines périodes. Ainsi et par exemple, si votre champ de tir est réservé à l'usage d'une force policière un mercredi après-midi, il n'est pas nécessaire que les usagers soient informés des règles de sécurité ou qu'un officiel de tir soit en fonction.

Les armes à feu des corps gouvernementaux ne sont pas assujetties au régime d'enregistrement du Programme canadien des armes à feu. En lieu et place, les armes à feu détenues par les corps policiers et certaines agences gouvernementales sont enregistrées dans un registre distinct<sup>9</sup>. La Loi (québécoise) sur l'immatriculation des armes à feu exempte également les armes appartenant aux agences gouvernementales de l'immatriculation obligatoire<sup>10</sup>.

On dit souvent que la police est au dessus des lois. Bien sûr, cela n'est pas tout à fait exact, du moins la plupart du temps. Mais lorsqu'on perle d'armes à feu, cette maxime a un fond de vérité. A tout le moins, le corps policiers et autres fonctionnaires publics n'obéissent pas aux mêmes règles que vous et moi. 

"Les policiers et certains autres fonctionnaires publics ne sont pas assujettis à ces restrictions. En effet, l'article 117.07 du Code Criminel leur accorde une immunité de poursuite à l'égard de plusieurs actes qui seraient autrement criminalisés."

#### References

- <sup>1</sup> Article 54 et suivants de la Loi sur les armes à feu
- <sup>2</sup> Article 58 de la Loi sur les armes à feu
- <sup>3</sup> *R. v. Hasselwander*, (1993) 2 RCS 398
- <sup>4</sup> Règlement désignant certains fonctionnaires publics, DORS/98-466
- <sup>5</sup> (DORS/98-203).
- <sup>6</sup> Article 11 du Règlement sur les armes à feu des agents publics, DORS/98-203
- <sup>7</sup> Règlement sur les champs de tir et les clubs de tir, DORS/98-212
- <sup>8</sup> Paragraphe 2(3) du Règlement sur les champs de tir et les clubs de tir, DORS/98-212
- <sup>9</sup> Article 85 de la Loi sur les armes à feu
- <sup>10</sup> Article 1 du Règlement d'application de la Loi sur l'immatriculation des armes à feu



# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## Survival Wisdom & Know-How: Everything You Need To Know To Subsist In The Wilderness

The front cover of *Survival Wisdom & Know-How* caught my attention while browsing in a local bookstore. "Everything You Need To Know To Subsist In The Wilderness" and "7,845 Useful Skills & Step-By-Step Instructions" sounds rather boastful. If true, this book would certainly be an enormous benefit to anyone who loves to spend time in Canada's wilderness.

Closer examination of *Survival Wisdom & Know-How* indicated that it displays the qualities of a reference text. The table of contents lists 13 essential chapters, divided into over 200 subtitles with page numbers. It only took a few seconds to locate specific topics of interest or necessity. Checking the index revealed well over 1,500 items. A quick sampling noted poisonous mushrooms, Palomar knot, high-altitude sickness, maggot therapy, hypothermia, insects as food and even the Komodo dragon. *Survival Wisdom & Know-How* is obviously intended as a resource which can be useful, whether spending time on a mountain, in a desert or on the glaciers of Antarctica.

While not intended as a book you would sit and read from cover to cover, browsing through *Survival Wisdom & Know-How* will be a fascinating journey. Each reader will decide on which topics require closer examination to satisfy their interest or curiosity. Whether you are simply looking to learn new skills to enhance your enjoyment of the outdoors or a serious survivalist preparing for long periods of time in the wilderness, *Survival Wisdom & Know-How* will not disappoint.

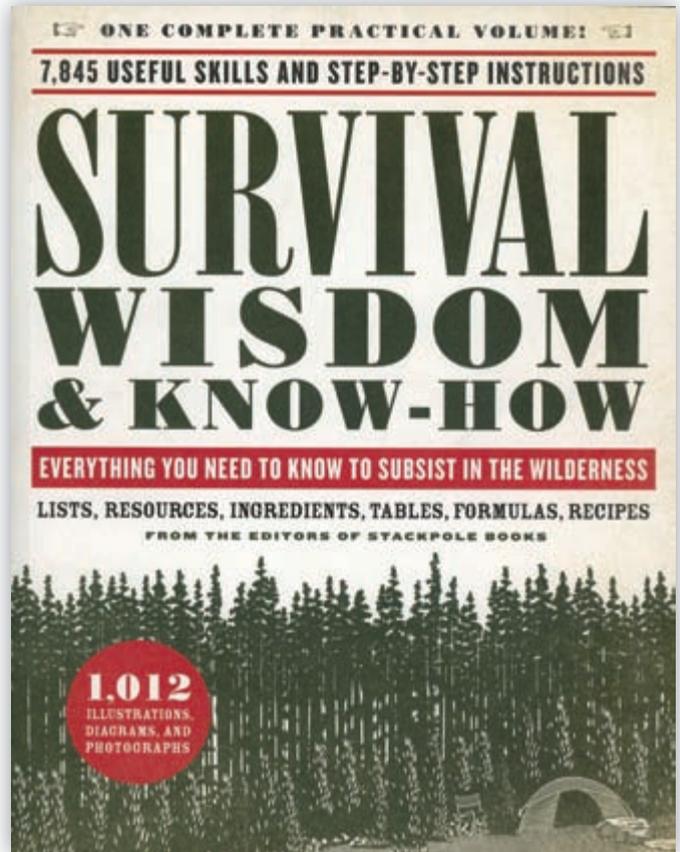
Our youngest generation learning to appreciate the beauty and solitude of the natural environment will be fascinated by the amount of information presented. Essential survival skills, including finding food and drinkable water, starting a fire, building temporary shelter or administering first aid, could save a life in an emergency.

There are over 1,000 black-and-white illustrations, diagrams and photographs supplementing the text. These tend to be quite simple, but they are effective in developing a full understanding of the concept.

Stackpole Books chose to present such an enormous amount of information in a single volume, rather than dozens of smaller books. This has the advantage of guaranteeing the information is readily available when needed, particularly in an emergency. The disadvantage is a single volume required over 800 pages.

Publishing such an enormous book would normally create a heavy and expensive edition, which would never leave the reading room. It was deliberately published as a soft cover book with thin, lightweight paper and print which is small but readable. This keeps the weight down to just over one kilogram and the suggested retail price at a reasonable \$25.99 CAD.

*Survival Wisdom & Know-How* easily exceeded my initial expectations and is highly recommended. Keeping a copy available at your home, cottage, hunt camp or camper will provide valuable reading material on those nasty days or long, dark nights. Check the shelves of your local bookstore for a copy. 



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**Author:** From the Editors of Stackpole Books

**Compiled By:** Amy Rost

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# Which "Dillon" is Right for You?



## Square Deal "B"

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



## RL 550C

More RL 550s have been sold than any other progressive machine in the world, and for good reason: The RL 550C's versatility is almost unlimited. It will load over 160 different rifle and pistol calibers.



## XL 650

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



## Super 1050

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

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**NO COMPROMISE.**