

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2019

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July/August 2019



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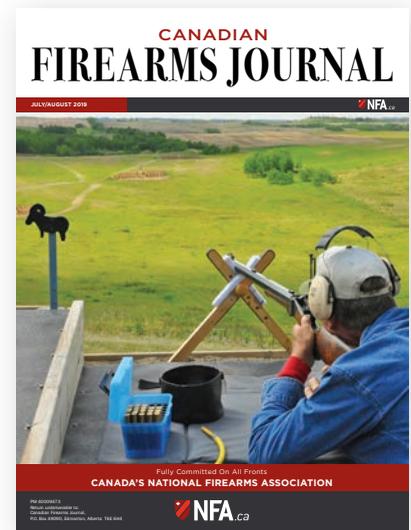
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

This month's cover depicts a competitor at a black powder silhouette match, about to touch off a shot at the 500-metre ram targets. That's a long way to lob a large chunk of lead, but the shooters who participate in this sport do it with surprising accuracy. Black powder cartridge rifle (BPCR) is just one of many shooting sports that either allow or mandate the use of black powder. Besides BPCR, black powder events include cowboy action shooting, frontier rendezvous and others. Those shooters who enjoy the fire-and-brimstone effect of this original propellant will often be heard to argue that smokeless powder is just a passing fad. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Grandfathering

This issue of the magazine will likely reach you sometime in the vicinity of Canada Day. Whether it's before our national holiday or after, be sure to take a day to enjoy your firearm freedoms. You can do that by heading for the local shooting range to shoot some targets, or by hunting whatever pest species is in season, or even by staying home and working on your firearm collection. My plan is to take multiple days and do some of each.

In particular, this is a good time to take your semi-autos and handguns out for a little fresh air and range time. As I write this, the Liberal government is seriously signalling that it will ban multiple types of these firearms. You should take that as a serious warning. Some gun shops are already reporting a brisk business as Canadians buy these types of firearms while they still can. Of course, the NFA will fight that sort of legislation with every available legal means. But until it's defeated, it's a

good idea to buy the guns they plan on prohibiting, even if you have no interest in semi-auto rifles and shotguns or handguns. Grandfathering will likely be included in what happens, and if it is, be sure to take advantage of it.

I'm old enough to remember when more than 50 per cent of all handguns were banned under Bill C-68. And since then, I regularly meet people who didn't take the opportunity to buy 12(6) handguns when they still could, just to get themselves grandfathered under the law. Now they are kicking themselves because they let the opportunity slip away. Don't make the same mistake. Of course, that confiscation was promised to solve "gun crime" in Canada, but we all knew it wouldn't. It's no different this time.

In the meantime, we'll keep bringing you stories about those guns and the people who use them. In this issue, Tim Fowler brings us a review of a new Kimber 1911 and Patrick Haynes writes

about how he learned to put a handgun to use by taking IPSC's Black Badge course. We also have Tyson Somerville, a Canadian who shoots 3-Gun matches, and who takes us on a humorous trip through his journey into that sport. His article really illustrates how much fun and how addicting the shooting sports are.

Also, look for Jeff Helsdon's review of Savage's AccuFit stock-fitting system and Tom Tabor's journey into making his 10/22 a more accurate, reliable and better-fitting firearm. And for the technically minded, Lowell Strauss dives into the obscure world of primer size and flash hole size in centrefire rifle cartridges.

This is your magazine, and I trust the reading material in these pages will help you enjoy the summer months. Catch some relaxing time with your guns and your family while you can, because it looks like we'll have a lot to do come fall and election season. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

AGM & More



Supt. Peter Tewfik spoke to the crowd about some of the RCMP's new crime reduction strategies in Alberta.

resented three significant aspects affecting gun control – politics, law enforcement and law. Senator Don Plett started off our group with a strong report on the process around Bill C-71 in the Senate, and he discussed the current composition of the Senate and what that means for legislation. RCMP Superintendent Peter Tewfik gave an informative presentation on crime reduction efforts in Alberta and took many questions from the audience. NFA lawyer Guy Lavergne gave a fascinating presentation comparing the gun control and legislative situation in New Zealand with that of Canada. His conclusions certainly gave all of us a great deal to think about, and tied together politics, law and enforcement.

As I reported in Calgary, NFA work at fighting gun control affecting Canadians has two main areas of action, domestic and international, and five main aspects to those efforts. These five aspects include political advocacy and activism, government lobbying, legal intervention, and assistance to those affected by the *Firearms Act*. Our activities are mainly domestic, though we also advocate and lobby internationally and share information and ideas with other like-minded groups. As well, a significant part of our effort is involved on administration and the support of members – including our comprehensive insurance program and courses on range safety and holster carry. Our sponsorship of shooters on Team NFA and special events helps to promote our efforts.

There is an election in the air and the campaigning is well underway. Puff-piece columns abound extolling the evils of various firearms and trumpeting out tired tunes in support of failed gun control. Fortunately, most people are recognizing these for what they are – support for a Liberal gun control agenda disguised as reporting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The NFA AGM, held May 12 in Calgary, was a resounding success. In particular, I am very pleased that Kerry George will be joining us on the NFA board of directors, representing Saskatchewan. Kerry is a welcome addition to our team.

Our AGM panel of speakers rep-

DOMESTIC ACTION

Canada's National Firearms Association has been an active participant in advocating for the rights of all firearms owners, encouraging others to be active in fighting for their rights, lobbying politicians at municipal, provincial and federal levels, engaging in purposeful social media communication and

supporting significant legal action. As the organization has grown, we are also aware of the need for vigor in defending the organization, its officers, its staff and our brand from unwarranted attacks. Our contracting with Fred Delorey to do dedicated, professional, ongoing lobbying and promotional efforts for NFA has opened many doors and given us rapid and effective access to federal and some provincial politicians and staff on our key issues. These efforts have helped our growth to the point that NFA will be hiring a full-time executive director to operate increased efforts in Ottawa. It is an exciting and yet dangerous time for firearms ownership – we need to ensure that our message is pressed even more strongly to both our opponents and those who would curry our favour.

NFA has been vigorous in taking legal action in support of Canadian firearms owners. We have won cases at the SCC, including the removal of mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent administrative offences and another on the passing of registry data to Quebec. We have had a case at the Quebec Court of Appeal heard regarding the creation of a firearm registry, but unfortunately that decision was unfavourable, and at time of writing, we are examining the decision and considering future options. We have continued to help many firearms owners with legal problems by intervening with information on their behalf, locating lawyers and providing case law and helpful suggestions.

We have been vigorous in defending against attacks from those who support gun control – including failed initiatives such as the classification system, licensing of people and registration of firearms. We have built bridges with law enforcement, the CPC and the legal community. NFA has assisted several pro-gun candidates win nominations by encouraging our members to participate in their campaigns. As well, we have identified and are targeting 22 swing ridings for the federal election. We have done intelligent media communications on several issues to fight bad gun laws. We aren't a status quo organization, and we do not support failed gun control like the licensing system, which certain other groups do. Licensing is failed gun and people control that Canada got wrong.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Canada's National Firearms Association has been an active participant as a



Senator Don Plett detailed the fight against Bill C-71.

voting member of the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities, and at major UN conferences on the *Arms Trade Treaty* and the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. Over the years, we have also participated in several US Second Amendment Foundation Gun Rights Policy conferences as both speakers and observers. NFA, as a registered UN NGO, has been vigorous in fighting the UN *Arms Trade Treaty*, the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the UN-model firearms law. We are active participants with the World Forum on the future of Shooting Activities (WFSA) in exchanging information on international gun control efforts and the fight against it. We have provided advice to New Zealand gun owners about next steps in their situation. The agents of gun control are vigorous, and we must be as well. Our international efforts will continue as we press to have Canada

leave the crumbling *Arms Trade Treaty* and completely cancel UN marking.

Two of our members each donated \$1,000 to be awarded to the NFA member who signs up the most members prior to the federal election. I look forward to seeing how this contest unfolds, as we really would like to get to at least 100,000 members in the next while. More members means more power to achieve our measured and sensible goals. I left Calgary inspired by you, the NFA membership, to work even harder to fight bad firearms laws, and to work hard to ensure the defeat of the anti-firearm Liberal government. As well, we continue to build strong relationships in order to get significant change to our failing firearm laws. Elections take time and money – please volunteer to help your local pro-gun candidates by donating or working or both. This election is an important one for us to win, and your efforts will make all the difference. 



Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

AGA et plus



Lawyer Guy Lavergne drew parallels between New Zealand's firearms control system and Canada's.

Les élections approchent et les campagnes vont bon train. Les grandes chroniques abondent, soulignant les maux des diverses armes à feu et ressortant les mêmes vieilles histoires en soutien au contrôle inefficace des armes à feu. Heureusement, la plupart des gens savent faire la part des choses et voient bien de quoi il en retourne – soutenir un ordre du jour libéral de contrôle des armes à feu sous la forme de soi-disant reportages médiatiques.

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

L'AGA de la NFA du 12 mai à Calgary a eu un succès retentissant. Plus précisément, je suis très content que Kerry George se joigne au conseil d'administration de la NFA au nom de la Saskatchewan. Terry est un ajout bienvenu à notre équipe.

Le panel d'orateurs représentait trois aspects significatifs du contrôle des armes à feu – la politique, les forces de l'ordre et la loi. Le sénateur Don Plett a lancé notre groupe en faisant une solide présentation sur le processus relatif au projet de loi C-71 au Sénat, et a parlé de la composition actuelle du Sénat et de ce que ça signifie pour la mesure législative. Le surintendant de la GRC Peter Tewfik a fait une présentation informative sur les activités de réduction de la criminalité en Alberta et a répondu aux nombreuses questions de l'auditoire. L'avocat de la NFA Guy Lavergne a fait une présentation des plus intéressantes, comparant le contrôle des armes et la situation législative en Nouvelle-Zélande et au Canada. Ses conclusions nous ont sans aucun doute donné des sujets de réflexion, faisant le lien entre la politique, la loi et l'application de la loi.

Comme je l'ai dit à Calgary, la lutte de la NFA contre les mesures de contrôle des armes à feu touchant les Canadiens vise deux principaux domaines d'action – national et international, et cinq aspects majeurs. Ces cinq aspects sont le militantisme et la représentation politique, le lobbying au gouvernement, l'intervention juridique et l'aide aux personnes visées par la Loi sur les armes à feu. Nos activités sont principalement nationales, quoique nous fassions aussi une représentation et du lobbying au palier international et partageons de l'information et des idées avec des groupes similaires à notre organisation. De plus, une grande part de nos efforts est liée à l'administration et au soutien des membres – dont notre régime d'assurance exhaustif et nos cours sur la sécurité sur les champs de tir et le transport des armes. Notre parrainage des tireurs de Team NFA et des événements spéciaux aident à promouvoir nos activités.

MESURES NATIONALES

L'Association canadienne des armes à feu participe activement à la défense des droits de tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu, encourageant les gens à se battre pour leurs droits, faisant du lobbying auprès des politiciens aux paliers municipal, provincial et fédéral, faisant une communication ciblée sur les médias sociaux, et soutenant d'importantes actions en justice. Alors que l'organisation grandit, nous sommes conscients qu'il faut la défendre avec vigueur, ainsi que ses dirigeants, son personnel et son image de marque, contre les attaques injustifiées. Notre travail avec Fred DeLorey, qui réalise des activités de promotion et de lobbying professionnels pour la NFA, ouvre de nombreuses portes et nous donne un accès rapide et efficace à des politiciens fédéraux, et à certains politiciens et membres du personnel provinciaux, sur des enjeux clés. Ces efforts favorisent notre croissance, au point où la NFA va embaucher un directeur exécutif à temps plein afin de diriger ses activités à Ottawa. C'est un moment excitant, quoique dangereux, pour les propriétaires d'armes à feu – nous devons assurer que notre message est encore mieux compris, à la fois par nos opposants et ceux qui aimeraient nous soutenir.

La NFA agit avec vigueur dans le cadre d'actions en justice pour soutenir les propriétaires d'armes à feu canadiens. Nous avons gagné des affaires à la Cour suprême, notamment l'élimination des

NFA merchandise and clothing was available for purchase to all attendees.



peines minimales exécutoires pour les infractions administratives non violentes et sur la remise des données de registre au Québec. Nous avons eu une affaire à la Cour d'appel du Québec sur la création du registre des armes à feu, mais malheureusement la décision a été défavorable et, au moment d'écrire ces lignes, nous étudions la décision et envisageons nos options. Nous continuons à aider de nombreux propriétaires d'armes à feu qui ont des problèmes juridiques en intervenant en leur nom, trouvant des avocats et fournissant de la jurisprudence et des suggestions utiles.

Nous nous défendons vigoureusement contre les attaques de ceux qui soutiennent le contrôle des armes à feu – notamment par des initiatives d'échec comme le système de classification, l'émission des permis et l'enregistrement des armes à feu. Nous jetons des ponts avec les forces de l'ordre, le PCC et le milieu juridique. La NFA aide plusieurs candidats pro-armes à remporter des courses à l'investiture en encourageant ses membres à participer à leurs campagnes. De plus, nous ciblons 22 circonscriptions indécises pour les élections fédérales. Nous faisons une communication réfléchie auprès des médias sur divers enjeux afin de contrer les mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu. Nous ne sommes pas une organisation inactive, et

nous ne soutenons pas les mesures de contrôle des armes inutiles comme le système d'enregistrement, contrairement à certains autres groupes. L'enregistrement est un contrôle inutile des armes et des gens, et le Canada fait fausse route.

ACTIVITÉS INTERNATIONALES

L'Association canadienne des armes à feu participe activement comme membre votant au Forum mondial sur l'avenir des activités de tir, et à d'importantes conférences de l'ONU sur le Traité sur le commerce des armes et le Programme d'action sur les armes légères et de petit calibre. Au fil des ans, nous avons aussi participé à plusieurs conférences sur la politique sur le droit aux armes de la Second Amendment Foundation aux États-Unis, comme orateurs et observateurs. La NFA, à titre d'ONG inscrite à l'ONU, s'oppose vigoureusement au Traité sur le commerce des armes de l'ONU, ainsi qu'au Programme d'action sur les armes légères et de petit calibre et à la Loi modèle sur les armes à feu. Nous sommes un participant actif du Forum mondial sur l'avenir des activités de tir, échangeant de l'information sur les mesures internationales de contrôle des armes et la lutte contre celles-ci. Nous donnons des conseils aux propriétaires d'armes à feu de la Nouvelle-Zélande

sur les prochaines étapes relatives à leur situation. Les agents de contrôle des armes sont fermes, et nous devons aussi l'être. Nous allons poursuivre nos efforts internationaux alors que nous voulons que le Canada quitte le déficient Traité sur le commerce des armes et annule complètement le marquage de l'ONU.

Deux de nos membres ont donné 1 000 \$ chacun, qui seront remis au membre de la NFA qui recrutera le plus de membres avant les élections fédérales. Je suis impatient de voir comment ce concours se déroule, car nous voulons avoir au moins 100 000 membres. Plus de membres veut dire plus de force pour atteindre nos objectifs sensés et mesurés. J'ai quitté Calgary motivé par l'énergie des membres de la NFA, et je vais travailler encore plus fort pour me battre contre les mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu et assurer la défaite du gouvernement libéral, qui est contre les armes. De plus, nous continuons à établir de solides relations afin d'apporter des changements significatifs à nos lois sur les armes à feu. Les élections nécessitent du temps et de l'argent – veuillez aider vos candidats pro-armes locaux en faisant un don, en travaillant bénévolement avec eux, ou les deux. Ces élections sont importantes, et vos efforts feront toute la différence. 



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Gathering In Calgary



Annual general meetings of Canada's National Firearms Association have always been a great pleasure for me, and the 2019 meeting in Calgary was no exception. In a nation as huge as Canada, it's a challenge for the NFA to connect with our members outside of electronic communications, social media and the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. It is difficult for most members to find the time to travel across Canada, and it is also financially challenging. It is the same for your NFA directors and executive. We are all in the same boat.

Therefore, we try and hold AGMs in many regions of Canada so that we can personally meet and interact with our members. In Calgary, it was an honour and privilege to host members who value the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership as much as the directors and executive

of Canada's National Firearms Association does.

However, at this AGM not only were we joined by members from Calgary and Alberta, but also from British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. These folks travelled great distances to participate in the business of this organization. We were most honoured to have Conservative Senate Leader Don Plett and Superintendent Peter Tewfick of the Alberta RCMP join us for discussions on firearms law reform and law enforcement policy. Our concerns are taken seriously by politicians and law enforcement officials who understand that Canada's firearms laws are misdirected, have failed and desperately need reform.

Along with the general business of the NFA, we also discussed our political and legal paths forward in this election year and beyond. Our

setbacks in the courts of Quebec in challenging the unfortunate attempt at long gun registration in that province were seriously discussed. I think Quebecers will be pleased to find that Canada's National Firearms Association will not give up this fight.

One thing that has always characterized this firearms issue in Canada, for me, is the fear of the law that exists in the hearts and minds of Canadians who are forced or coerced into our bureaucratic firearms regime. This struck me again while speaking to NFA members at the 2019 AGM. These are regular Canadians of all backgrounds with lives, families and careers who care about their rights, freedoms and nation and are trying to navigate a myriad of laws and regulations, but never really sure they are complying.

To clarify, I'm not talking about those who have criminal intent or disdain

for the laws of Canada, but those who attempt to comply. Not because firearms laws are right, just or vital for public safety, which they are not, but out of a general respect for the laws of Canada. After many years, I have concluded this was the intent of those who wrote the laws and administer and enforce them. Not public safety, suppression of crime or the welfare of Canadians, but fear.

If Canadians can be bullied or cajoled through a general assumed ignorance or unfamiliarity of the law, the threat of prosecution and the loss of rights and property, the ultimate legislative, bureaucratic and enforcement goals are that much easier to achieve. I think these insidious and poisonous tools of politicians, bureaucrats and the judiciary are indicative of the most offensive parts of the *Firearms Act*, and its true goals, the disarmament of Canadians and the end of our rights, freedoms and culture.

If you believe like I do, I know you will continue to support Canada's National Firearms Association and our goal of defeating the civil disarmament agenda and securing the rights, freedoms and culture of Canadians. Freedom, safety and responsibility can be secured in the laws of Canada if we have the will to make it happen.

For several months we have been outlining just how critical Election 2019 is going to be. Bill C-71 is about to become law. If implemented, it will have severe consequences to the rights and property of Canadians. The Liberal Party is already outlining their future intentions of gun bans and confiscations if they retain power. It is more important than ever to create the necessary political conditions for firearms law reform. This can only be done with a new government.

At the time of this writing, wild rumours of gun bans fly, with irresponsible rhetoric from Liberal politicians feeding them. We're not just talking about licensing and registration schemes anymore. What comes next is the theft of your property. You will be compelled to turn over your rights and property because you fear the law and its ramifications. This is the Canada we live in today, courtesy of the Liberal Party and the civil disarmament lobby – fear of the law and confiscation. Not as a result of conviction of an offense, but for mere possession of property.

Let that sink in, then do the right thing in the federal election this fall. Vote. 🇨🇦



Bev and Ginger are two of the NFA's office staff who keep things running smoothly.



Some of the crowd at the NFA's AGM.



The NFA's 2019 executive and board of directors.



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

The Black Powder Mystique – Going To The Dark Side



Ladies are also capable black powder shooters, as this participant demonstrates.



Ray, a participant at Easter Rendezvous 2019, shoots guns of the black powder era and dresses the part as well.

The discovery of black powder is shrouded in mystery, with its invention lost in the mists of the past. Speculation is that it was likely invented in China in the 700 to 800 A.D. era, with this new compound used exclusively for fireworks. In Chinese it was called *huoyao*, which means fire medicine. Around the year 1000 it was first used for military action, with fire arrows and bombs, while the first recorded use of guns was in the mid-1300s, around 1364. These first guns were tubes with a touch hole. The tube could be used from a rest by one individual, which then led to the invention of cannon. By 1400, the match lock gun emerges, and at this point firearms technology begins to evolve.

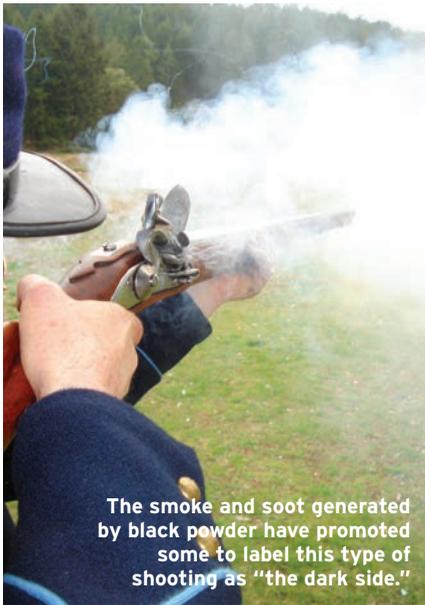
Rifling is discovered by the late 1400s, by 1509 the wheel lock is invented, and 1540 sees the limited use of rifled firearms. Then, 1630 marks the dawn of the flintlock, which turned out to be the longest-lived ignition system of all time, lasting well into the mid 1800s. In 1807,

the percussion cap was patented, and by the 1850s the cap lock eclipsed the flint. A new era arrived when the rimfire cartridge was born in 1859. All of these ignition systems used black powder, but the black powder cartridge era lasted only briefly from the 1860s to the early 1900s. Although, I'll concede commercially loaded black powder ammunition was available until the 1930s and is now obtainable once more. However, as a propellant, black powder reigned for 600 years.

While the lure of black powder firearms remains to date, muzzleloaders were commonly available until the 1930s. Muzzleloaders were widely used in that era, principally in rural areas and for competition in precision rifle events. During the Second World War, interest in black powder languished, but the 1950s saw a revival of interest in black powder, with firearms, flints and percussion caps once more becoming available. In 1954, a new company emerged, Dixie

Gun Works, the inspiration of Turner Kirkland who began selling newly manufactured muzzleloaders, original and reproduction parts, accessories and black powder gear in Union City, Tennessee. Aldo Uberti established his reproduction firearms company in 1959, situated in the Brescia valley Gordone, Italy, followed by Davide Pedersoli with Army San Marco. Pietta and other similar gun makers followed. The rest is history. Throughout the 1960s, and into the 1980s, there was a rebirth of black powder muzzle loading and cartridge arms competitions. Encampments called rendezvous became popular, with the first modern rendezvous held on Vancouver Island in 1974. The creators were Barry Beazley and Royce Neuman. At this time, black powder clubs were being established all over North America and Europe.

Cowboy action shooting took root in the early 1980s, its ranks swelling to include percussion revolvers, black pow-



The smoke and soot generated by black powder have promoted some to label this type of shooting as "the dark side."



A family group camped at Easter Rendezvous.

der rifle and shotgun cartridge categories. The Single Action Shooting Society has clubs internationally, with a membership in excess of 110,000, fielding competitions worldwide. The interest in black powder cartridge long-range rifle shooting has captured the interest of a whole new cadre of firearms enthusiasts.

Shooting black powder (sometimes referred to as "the dark side") has an allure that is difficult to resist. I have been a muzzleloader enthusiast since 1956. In 1965, I built my own muzzleloader and have since assembled several others for myself. My first black powder cartridge rifle was acquired in 1965, a trap-door Springfield rifle in 45-70 Gov't, it is U.S. arsenal marked with a Buffington rear sight. The early 1970s saw the acquisition of a Sharps U.S. Cavalry carbine in 50-70 calibre. Then in 1974, a Sharps No. 1 sporting rifle in 45-70 Gov't became available. Since then I have owned a number of Sharps and Springfield rifles. The 1874 Sharps sporting rifle remains one of my favourites, as well as a Shiloh Sharps business rifle in 45-70. The Shiloh Sharps rifles are incredibly well made and replicate the originals so well that the parts are totally interchangeable.

The Malahat Marauders Black Powder Club was established in 1974, when gun clubs began to allot official time for muzzleloader aficionados. Locally, the North Saanich Rod & Gun Club and the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association have regular black powder days generally once a month. The VF&GPA, in conjunction with the Malahat Marauders, host two rendezvous annually. There

are several rendezvous held on BC's lower mainland and the interior of the province, with the largest one occurring near Kamloops at the Hefley Creek Gun Club. This rendezvous unfolds annually at the end of August, and the 11-day celebration sees 300 participants with 140 camps. Black powder shooters can now attend black powder events in a wide geographic area out west, including BC, Alberta, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

On interviewing multiple avid black powder muzzleloader and cartridge arm shooters, I have posed the question, "Why does black powder shooting endure and why is it supported by such a dedicated group?"

The answers which have been shared follow an interesting theme, including the idea that black powder shooting sports are viewed as natural and organic. The components are of the Earth and nature. After all, saltpetre, sulphur and charcoal are all natural ingredients provided by the natural world that surrounds us. It is the essence of the Earth itself. Also mentioned is that the events and encampments are family affairs, which include multi generations, the young, old, and in between. And, yes, it is common to see grandparents, parents and children, as well as men and women as enthusiastic participants, enjoying the special camaraderie of black powder shooting. And lastly, black powder shooting is a connection to our past, and

using it imparts a sense of history. Because it is where we came from, it is who we are and what we do. Early Canada was centered on the fur trade and our connective co-operation to First Nations. The First Nations appreciated European technology in the form of firearms, and they reciprocated by instructing Europeans how to survive in an environment that could certainly be harsh and unforgiving.

Many participants suggested they also enjoy researching the clothing of natural fibres, leather and sinew, technology and accouterments of a time long past. Starting fires with flint and steel, managing a primitive camp, cooking and using primitive utensils, all add to the appeal. The clothing of the Hudson's Bay men, and the various levels of dress from the management to the voyageurs, imparts a sense of place and purpose.

There are many black powder muzzleloader and cartridge shooters who are also avid hunters. In the interior of BC, I have interviewed a smooth bore shooter who takes big game with a French-style trade gun (Fusil de Chasse). At our local gun club, there are a select few hunters who harvest game with Sharps rifles, one of them having taken a buffalo with his Sharps.

The use and management of black powder firearms, either muzzleloader or cartridge, requires study, skill and allows individuals of our modern era to actively live our firearms heritage. 



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Posturing As Policy



glib talking points and ideology. The RCMP and other organizations are helping drive the crackdown with their stated concern about the proliferation of “crime guns.” Unfortunately, the term crime gun is not the rigorous, tightly defined category necessary for accurate research and evaluation. Instead, this term is a messy mixture of conflicting definitions. Crime guns (“firearms related”) are defined by Statistics Canada as guns that are present during a crime. For example, an old rifle that wasn’t involved in any way with the crime becomes a crime gun because it was found in a basement closet at the crime scene. This distortion is justified by the discredited weapons effect theory which affirms these inanimate objects are so fearsome they psychologically escalate violence just by their presence. So, the old rifle in the closet makes the crime “firearms related” because it’s so scary. (One might also speculate that this is a calculated political act by anti-gun officials to artificially boost numbers.)

Currently, the RCMP is jumping on the bandwagon by expanding the definition of crime gun to include paperwork offenses such as being a found gun, an unlicensed gun or involved in a technicality crime. This policy is the predictable outcome of the political decision to make administrative regulations part of the *Criminal Code*. Police have compiled reports that include air guns, flare guns, nail guns, paintball guns, etc. as firearms. The category now includes raw speculation by adding any firearm suspected of being used in a crime. All firearms without registration or licensing are also added to the crime gun category. To get an idea of this policy’s impact, we can look at the Canadian Firearms Program report on seizures of crime guns in western Canada in 2014. Of the 1,140 crime guns seized in western Canada, only 150 (13 per cent) were recovered after specific violent incidents (includes disturbance and threats.)

This sort of shabby amateurism and professional sloppiness muddies

Trudeau’s Liberal Party is adept at virtue signaling and moral posturing wrapped in platitudes. This goes down well in the politically correct world of our philosopher king and his post-national, no-core-identity-Canada of myth and spin. Unfortunately, basing policy decisions on ideology rather than facts doesn’t make the facts go away. The belief that ideological purity and public relations spin are an adequate base for tackling complicated, real-world problems is flawed. An example of this is Trudeau’s belief that budgets balance themselves. Unhappily, Tinker Bell the financial fairy did not turn up, and the tens of billions in debt will now have to be paid back, with interest, by the long-suffering public. This is just part of the costs incurred when a government believes virtue signaling will somehow summon magic unicorns to make it all work.

COUNTING FIREARMS

Firearms law and policy in Canada are textbook examples of policies based on posturing. We can start with the federal government’s absolute refusal to do a cost-benefit study to see if we are getting value for money. This goes back to Kim Campbell’s gun control Bill C-17 (1991) which the auditor general noted was based on the “absence of precise data” and should be subjected to “rigorous evaluation.” In 1995, the Liberals introduced C-68 which, amongst other things, produced the \$2 billion firearms registry, still without any precise data. That \$2 billion for an ineffective and now defunct registry was just the cost of posturing.

Now, almost a quarter century later, we are again debating stricter gun control without any evaluation of the current system’s effectiveness. The current debate continues to rely on

research in the service of political spin. For example, when a spokesperson for the western Canada division of the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team made the highly publicized claim most crime guns were domestically sourced, the CFP was forced to admit the announcement had no statistical validity because the CFP did not collect statistics on the origin of crime guns. Statistics Canada has also stated they do not know the origins of crime guns in Canada for the simple reason that no such data is being collected. (A mish mash of bits and pieces from different sources using different definitions and standards does not constitute national data.)

Another recent example of posturing is the notorious *Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault Weapons* survey. We can start by noting this political exercise is public opinion research and makes no attempt to establish any facts – so much for fact-based policy. It is also clear that it was firmly based on the unproven assumption that gun availability is a key driver of violent crime in Canada. The *Dialogue* then swiftly moves from political trial balloon to farce with its use of the term assault weapon.

ASSAULT WEAPONS

This category, assault weapon, is a fundamental component of the *Dialogue*, with its definition critical to what is included or excluded from the survey. This definition determines what we are talking about and therefore the survey's answers. So, what are assault weapons?

- We learn from Public Safety Canada that the term is not defined in Canadian firearms legislation. If this type of firearm is critical to public safety, why has it never been defined before now? If there is no legal definition, why have they not created one to clarify what they are talking about? Are we to naively assume they don't have something specific in mind?
- Their "illustrative purposes" definition states that, "assault weapons are semi-automatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that were designed and configured for rapid fire." This is problematic. It would include handguns, so their primary categories overlap and blur. It is based, in part, on a non-issue



With no detachable magazine, the SKS doesn't fit the gun-banner's usual flawed definition of an assault weapon.

since large-capacity magazines are already illegal in Canada. Its other part, "designed for," is a subjective category different from the more objective "capable of."

- The source of their definition is the US assault weapon ban (enacted 1994, expired 2004.) A ban which was not renewed because it had no measurable impact on crime. So why are they basing their definition on a failed piece of foreign legislation? Why, after endless criticisms of problematic, inadequate, dangerous American firearm law, are they using an American definition?
- They inform us that the number of assault weapons in Canada cannot be counted because the term is not defined, but they speculate that some of the 100,000 restricted and prohibited guns may be included in the term. However, if they cannot tell how many such guns are in Canada, it is also impossible to tell how many are used in crime, completely undercutting the supposed purpose to the *Dialogue*.

CONCLUSION

One is at a loss to regard the Liberal Party's actions as anything other than a trial balloon to see if they can whip up some anti-gun emotionalism to distract from their other failures. The *Dialogue* is not just a poorly designed, bizarrely implemented (they have no idea if respondents are Canadian or not!) piece of hack work. Their use of the carefully undefined term assault weapon is glaring proof of their total and utter contempt for the people of Canada. "Here you go you dimwitted,

slack-jawed yokel, give us your opinion on something or other." (They have since changed the term to assault-style firearms; see above to determine if this addresses any of the issues raised).

One can see the shifty, devious calculations at work. They leave critical definitions deliberately undefined. They imply that assault weapons are primarily restricted or prohibited firearms, when they know that most semi-automatics are non-restricted. They simply assume there is a causal relationship between numbers and types of legally held firearms and criminal misuse of firearms. (The US assault weapon ban had zero effect on crime. The homicide rate in the US is half the world average and some countries with very low gun ownership rates have homicide rates three times the US average.) Again, billions are spent in the service of posturing while necessities are starved of funding. ❗

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 **LAPUA**



A head-to-head comparison of the 308 Winchester, 7mm BR and Lapua Palma. Note the varying primer and flash hole sizes.

A CASE STUDY IN PRECISION

Primer pocket & flash hole sizes in the 308 Win

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

Alice beckoned to me from the rabbit hole. She was holding two bags of brass cartridge cases, one contained the familiar 308 Winchester, the other also contained 308 Winchester cases, but something was different – the head-stamps read “.308 WIN LAPUA PALMA.” The Palma cases had typical 308 Win external SAAMI dimensions, but the large rifle primer pockets were gone, replaced by small rifle primer pockets with small flash holes. Why? I was uncertain – if I jumped down this rabbit hole in search of accuracy, I might never return from that strange land. Taking a deep breath, I took a chance. Here's what I found.

It all started sometime before the 2010 SHOT Show. Lapua, at the behest of the US Palma team, secretly developed a new version of the 308 Winchester that used a small BR-style primer pocket with a 1.5-millimetres (.059-inch) flash hole, which is smaller than the standard two millimetres. Initial tests of that small primer pocket were encouraging to the team, showing excellent accuracy and lower extreme spreads and standard deviations in velocity. Handloaders were excited. Oddly enough, this wasn't the first time the 308 Win got a makeover in the quest for accuracy.

Digging deeper, I talked with the folks at Sierra Bullets, a company that also has ties to the Palma name. According to Palma rules, the maximum permitted

bullet weight is less than 156 grains. To my knowledge, Sierra, with its 155-grain HPBT, is the only company with the Palma name on a box of bullets.

My contact at Sierra reached out to Mid Tompkins, a long-time (60-plus years) competitive long-range shooter and member of over 12 US Palma teams. He recalls that, “Winchester came out with Palma brass in 1992 (with a large primer and .080-inch flash hole). The original Winchester Palma and Lapua Palma were almost identical at 174-ish grains.” He goes on to say, “Winchester lightened their brass over the years, now there's about a grain's worth of powder volume difference between the brass.” Going back even farther, Mid remembered, Remington also made small primer cases for the 308 Win back in the 1970s as a wildcat base cartridge for the Remington BR cartridges. They used a large flash hole. In the quest for accuracy, handloaders have toyed with different iterations of the cartridge's primer and flash hole dimensions for the past 40-plus years.

WHY USE A SMALL PRIMER IN A MID-SIZED CASE?

If small primer pockets are the staple of the bench rest world, maybe there's merit to a 308 Win case with a small primer for shooting at long range. Perhaps the secret is finally out. The Lapua Palma 308 Winchester is growing in pop-

ularity. It's so successful that Redding Reloading now includes small decapping pins with all its 308 Win die sets, to accommodate the small (.059-inch) flash hole of the Lapua Palma brass. There is no commercially loaded Lapua Palma ammunition, so Lapua Palma brass is available to reloaders only.

I asked Tom Griffin, tech. manager at Lyman Products and editor of *Long Range Precision Rifle Reloading Handbook*, about the Lapua brass. The handbook, which is a special volume with data for long-range cartridges, includes data for both the 308 Win and 308 Win (small primer) Lapua Palma brass. Lyman used pressure barrels to measure each load. Comparisons are based on recorded pressures and velocities only, not fired in actual rifles at long range to compare results. From the pressure testing results, Griffin suggested that, “Palma brass was created to hopefully produce improved shot-to-shot consistency – tighter standard deviations – translating into better accuracy compared to standard, large primer cases. In our testing of Lapua cases of both types, we saw a slight edge in standard deviations with the small primer cases. Not with every powder or bullet combination, but there was a slight edge overall.”

Some loaders suggest that because of the extra brass in the head of the cartridge, loading Palma brass to



Many shooting competitors are switching to brass with small rifle primers, like this Lapua Palma brass, for improved cartridge performance.

higher pressures is safe. Griffin cautioned against it. "In my opinion, you should not try to push pressures higher when using Palma brass. Theoretically, Palma brass has more brass surrounding the primer than standard large primer pocketed brass, which should produce a slightly stronger case; however, if you are to the point that primer pockets expand, you've already pushed past safe pressure levels. Otherwise, the case volume between the two types was the same, as is the case life. Lapua brass is of excellent quality and provides long case life in either type." Griffin's notes about case volumes matched my measurements too.

PRIMERS

According to a 2009 article on Accurate-Shooter.com, "Palma Team members

found that with almost every brand of primer tested (small versus large), the smaller version yielded reduced extreme spread and standard deviation. This pays dividends in 1,000-yard shooting. Also, some testers believe that small primers are more consistent and require less sorting, and that there are more varieties of small primers that seem to work well in the 308 Win case. Moreover, the small primer types are more uniform, from lot to lot, than are large primers, according to some testers."

"Bench rest-grade primers add a measure of improved consistency for the long-range crowd, regardless of other variables," says Robin Sharpless, executive vice-president with Redding Reloading Equipment. The availability of a premium bench rest primer may be enough of a reason to try the small

primer.

Some shooters think that small primers are more consistent, while others do not. Others prefer the hotter ignition of a large primer. Individual shooters must test this in their system. On one online forum, users noted that most of the top F/TR competitors are using Palma brass, but added when switching brass (from large to small primer pockets) loads may need minor retuning.

EXTREME SPREAD & STANDARD DEVIATION

Extreme spread (ES) and standard deviation (SD) are mathematical terms that describe the difference between the high and low values, uniformity and expected variation in a sequence of numbers. Handloaders use ES and SD in several ways to sort components and test results, including bullet and case



weight, bullet length and velocity. It's a method of measuring consistency, which translates into improved accuracy.

ES is simply the difference between the highest and lowest values, the outliers, in the sample. SD is a little more complicated, but in layman's terms it is a measure of how spread out the number is from the average. The smaller the SD, the less variation there is from the average.

The ES and SD evaluated with a chronograph are a direct measurement of how the components of a handload are working together to produce consistent results. At extended ranges, small variations in extreme spread account for significant point-of-impact shifts.

Competitive shooters are chasing consistency, and ES and SD are how it's measured. Last year I attended the first

Extreme Long Range (ELR) world record event at Front Sight Firearms Training in Nevada. Many of the competitors used a MagnetoSpeed chronograph on the rifle for every single shot in order to correct firing solutions. At extreme long range, where targets are 1,500 to 2,500-plus yards, minor changes in velocity make big differences downrange.

I measured two batches of 20 308 Win Lapua Brass, one of large primer and one of small primer. The large primer pocket brass had an average weight of 174.5 grains, an ES of 1.9 grains and SD of 0.4 grains. In comparison, the Palma brass had an average weight of 173.2 grains, an ES of 0.8 grains and a SD of 0.2 grains. Both types were consistent with the Palma brass edging out its big brother. I was surprised that the Palma weighed less because, in theory, there's

extra brass in the head. To quench my curiosity, I measured the case capacity for each type to see if the difference in weight equalled a difference in volume. The results were closer than I expected, with the average water capacity of the Palma cases 0.4 grains more than the large primer case.

DRAWBACKS TO SMALL PRIMERS

Theoretically, with slower-burning, coarse-grained powder, ignition problems could occur in the cold with a small primer because it doesn't have as much fire going up into the powder as the large primer. I posed this question to Lapua. They told me there have not been any complaints to the Lapua factory about ignition problems when using Palma cases in the cold. Certainly, most competitors shoot at moderate tempera-



Finding an accurate load involves testing different components to see how they perform together.

tures, and if there's a concern, storing ammunition in an insulated container can prevent these problems.

OTHER CARTRIDGES

Riding on the success of the Palma brass, Lapua now makes a small primer case for the 6.5 Creedmoor. It includes the smaller-diameter flash hole because, says Lapua, "It's proven to provide enhanced accuracy and is used in a number of our other accuracy-oriented cases. In this respect, the new 6.5 Creedmoor joins the ranks of our other dedicated accuracy cartridges, such as the 220 Russian (6mm PPC), the 6mm BR Norma, the 6.5X47 Lapua and the 308 Win. Palma cases."

Starline Brass makes pistol and rifle brass for reloaders. Browsing their website, you'll find two versions of 308 Winchester brass – one with a large primer pocket and the other, dubbed the 308 Match, is the small primer version. Starline uses an industry standard .080-inch diameter flash hole in its 308 Match brass. They believe it gives better ignition with slower burning and harder-to-ignite powders, making it more user-friendly than small primer/small flash hole versions of this calibre. They go on to say, "As with all cartridge cases (like

308 Win) with small primer pockets, it requires care in powder and primer selection in cooler temperatures to prevent hang fires. Single-based propellants are generally easier to ignite and it's important to use a quality primer, such as the Remington 7 1/2 BR."

FINAL THOUGHTS

According to Lapua, small primers do not change the ballistics; however, different primers (brand, type and size) affect the velocity, velocity spread, pressure and accuracy. Velocity variation and accuracy are maybe the best criteria to evaluate the suitability of the primer to the application. Testing load combinations is part of the fun. And that is where I'm at, testing various combinations of bullets, powder, primers and seating depths, and so far there's no clear winner.

So, does the small primer improve accuracy? Possibly. Maybe even probably. Once other variables are controlled and consistent, this one could make that small difference. On the quest for accuracy, handloaders leave nothing to chance. But shooting is as much a mental game as physical so, as the adage goes, "If you think it helps, then it helps." Plus, there's a cool factor of having

something different than other shooters.

I'll leave you with some sage advice from Bryan Litz, ballistician and long-range shooter: "Aim for a reliable load that shoots half-minute groups, one that'll work in any condition. Stick with that load and focus on practicing. Concentrate on rehearsing the fundamentals of marksmanship. The consistency you'll develop over time, using the same ammunition, means more to success than refining a half-minute group into a quarter-minute group. People try to compensate for skills with the precision of their handloads. Strive to centre the group on the target."

In the rabbit hole I found a twisted maze of variables. Each path takes you on a tangent in the pursuit of accuracy. For some people, testing new combinations of loads is part of the fun, but be warned, you can burn out a barrel in the quest for that quarter-minute group, if it exists at all. 🏹

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AN OPTIC-READY 1911

A quick look at Kimber's KHX 9mm

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER

The only guy I know with a gun safe in his office and a dual pistol-rifle range in a concrete bunker below the lunchroom is Terry Korth. Terry is the president of Korth Group and they import toys for big boys and girls: brands like Kimber, Leupold, Hornady, Ruger and Proof Research. Let's just say, Terry can run whatever gun he chooses, and his most recent pistol is a Kimber KHX 1911 in 9mm Luger. Recently, Terry let me run his Kimber through its paces. The gun was flat-out fun and comfortably accurate.

BUILT FOR DOT SIGHTS

Terry already owns a 1911 in 45 Automatic and wanted to add a 9mm Luger to his collection for competition use. When Kimber offered this new gun

specifically built for installing a red dot sight, Terry ordered one for himself and installed a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro. He recently shot an IDPA (International Defensive Pistol Association) competitive match with some colleagues from Korth.

"I loved it, had a ton of fun, learned about the sport and didn't finish last," said Terry. When I asked why the electronic sight, he said, "My eyes have aged, and the red dot sight just makes life a little easier."

When I shot the gun, it took me a full box of cartridges to get comfortable finding the red dot in the sight picture. But after that I was quickly able to find the dot, place it on target and make the hit. My accuracy improved further after adjusting the dot to the smallest size. A

bright outdoor range would naturally require adjustment to a brighter and larger dot.

TRIGGER TIME

If you've ever picked up a 1911, you know the grip feels like a handshake, and when shooting the Kimber, I think it feels like a firm handshake from a long-time trusted friend. But every time I squeeze a handgun trigger on a paper target, I am reminded how easy it is to be accurate with a scoped rifle. Achieving reasonable groups on targets requires concentrated effort with any handgun, and I find shooting handguns accurately at 20 yards is tough. That's the distance at which I tested the gun for accuracy, using a padded rest to support my two-handed grip. In short, >



The Kimber KHX is capable of great accuracy, as this 20-yard group demonstrates.

appear in the slide, fore and aft, making an effective grip for racking the gun. The 127-millimetre (five-inch) stainless match grade, 1-in-16-inch, left-hand-twist barrel fits in a match-grade bushing. This gun runs a 12-pound spring and full-length guide rod. The factory aluminum trigger is set between four and five pounds and gives the shooter plenty of opportunity to execute a smooth take up and crisp release of the shot. Kimber ships the KHX 9mm Luger in a lockable box with a single-stack, nine-round magazine, a cable lock and owner's manual.

The ability to buy a factory gun machined for Leupold's DeltaPoint Pro is a positive for those of us who could use a bit of help with ageing eyes, and the red dot is an upgrade steadily gaining in popularity. I already have an affinity for 1911's and the Kimber KHX with a red dot just makes this stronger. Is it wrong to wish I had a range under my lunchroom? 🍷

Conventional checkering has been replaced by a modern honeycomb look.



I can, and the DeltaPoint Pro helped me to shoot more accurately than I can manage with iron sights. Interestingly, the recoil of 9mm, 115-grain projectiles at 1,155 feet per second felt significantly sharper to me than the .45-calibre, 230-grain round nose bullets at 850 feet per second, even though the recoil is technically lighter and the return to sight picture is quicker with the 9mm Luger compared to the 45 ACP.

DETAILS

The Kimber KHX stainless steel frame and slide are finished in dark grey. The gun weighs 1,077 grams (38 ounces), including the empty magazine. This is 30 grams (one ounce) less than the original 1911 in 45 Automatic. I found the gun has good traction in the hand, from backstrap to thumb-rest safety and grip panels. The Kimber is a single stack, so it fits nicely in my size-12 hand and is easy to control with both hands. The backstrap and grip panels are dimpled in a matching pattern that reminds me of snake scales. Up close, the stipple on the front strap looks like a beehive cut into the lower extension of the steel frame. Hexagonal cuts in relief

I found the Kimber is capable of much better groups than I am.

The last five-shot group of the day measured 1.116 inches, and that's with a fifth-shot flyer that would have kept the group under one-half inch if I'd done my part. The Kimber shoots better than

The 1911's Grip Safety

Did you know the grip safety on the 1911 came about as a result of John Browning's work to create a pistol which met the requirements of the US Cavalry? At least, so says Walt Kuleck, author of *The M1911 Complete Owner's Guide*. It seems Browning had to create a design safe in the hands of a horseman at full gallop, with a 45 Auto in one hand and reins in the other. Although a lanyard attached to the mainspring housing kept the firearm from hitting the deck if the rider had to let go of the pistol for some reason (like returning both hands to rein his horse or some other urgent military matter), a cocked pistol flailing at the end of a leather lanyard, bouncing between your horse's sweaty neck, your thigh and the saddle is not a good scenario. The 1911 grip safety was designed with this in mind and engages the split second the grip is released. The redundant combination of thumb and grip safety was as much for the horse's protection as the rider. As of 2019, the design of the 1911 is 108 years old and the 1911's safety still functions perfectly. The 1911 won't ever go bang unless you have a full grip on the gun.

Adding a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro makes any pistol easier to shoot for those with aging eyes.



Leupold's DeltaPoint Pro

Leupold designed the DeltaPoint Pro as a red dot sight to fit on pretty much anything that goes bang. From ARs to shotguns and pistols, the DeltaPoint Pro is designed to take a constant hammering while providing fast, heads-up target acquisition and shot execution. The sight is constructed of machined aluminum with a spring-steel sheath of protection around the lens. The sight has 40 clicks of one MOA per click adjustment, providing 25 centimetres (10 inches) of elevation adjustment at 20 yards. The dot size is 2.5 MOA and it's adjustable through eight brightness settings by pressing the button on the left side of the sight. Turn the sight on by holding the button down for three seconds and then releasing. The sight enters sleep mode after five minutes of inactivity and reactivates at the slightest movement. Hold the activation button down for three seconds for a hard shut down. Leupold recommends users engage a gunsmith to remove the rear sight and mount the DeltaPoint.



A True North Arms
fake suppressor
mounted on a
Ruger PCC.

CANADIAN “SUPPRESSORS”

BY AL VOTH

We all know suppressors are prohibited devices in Canada. Ask any politician why and they'll be happy to tell you these devices are the choice of criminals because a suppressor-equipped gun is as quiet as a mouse fart. They know this because they've seen countless assassinations on TV and in movies. Of course, it's all fiction, but believing fiction seems to be a prerequisite for becoming a liberal Canadian politician. The reality is much different. And therefore, suppressors are legal in many countries (including Great Britain) and even encouraged because of the role they play in hearing protection and reducing noise pollution.

In Canada, it's so bad that the baffles your gun club erects to reduce the noise of neighbour-disturbing gunshots are prohibited devices. This is because the applicable legislation is worded so broadly it prohibits any "...device or contrivance designed or intended to muffle or stop the sound or report of a firearm." The only reason no one has been charged criminally for erecting a sound baffle at a gun range is because doing so is "not in the public interest." So far.

Therefore, we can't own and use suppressors. However, we can own and use fake suppressors. These devices are designed to look like suppressors, but



These three variations of fake suppressors all position the gun's muzzle at different spots. With the barrel inserted from the left, the white line indicates the muzzle's position after installation.

they are not "...designed or intended to muffle or stop the sound or report of a firearm," nor are they capable of doing so. I've recently been playing with three such devices I obtained from True North Arms.

This Mississauga company specializes in parts and accessories for modern sporting rifles, with fake suppressors being one of the items they carry. For shooters who want to recreate the look of a specific military gun, these are essential. Some of them are even labeled with fake USMC markings, for the ultimate in realism. For others, it's just fun and educational to see what a gun

handles like with a suppressor attached. Unfortunately, because of the lack of baffles, the recoil reduction provided by a real suppressor is absent with the fake units. However, for those who have never used guns with the real thing, this is the closest you'll get to it in Canada.

True North Arms offers a variety of styles and sizes, so it's best to check out their website (www.truenortharms.com) to see what's currently in stock. Be sure to order the correct thread/bore size for your project gun. Pricing starts at a very reasonable \$45 CAD. These are guaranteed conversation starters at your local shooting range. 🍷

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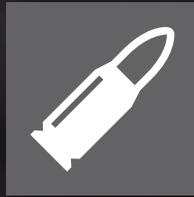
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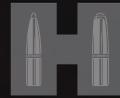
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REVISING THE M6

Chiappa's updated version of the legendary survival gun

BY NORMAN GRAY

In 1952, a firearm called the M6 Air Crew Survival Weapon was purpose built and issued to United States Air Force aircrews to harvest small game and birds in the event of a crash resulting from enemy action or mechanical failure. This M6 was a combination firearm, with the upper barrel chambered in 22 Hornet and the lower barrel in .410 bore. The original M6

rifle was manufactured by Ithaca using a stamped sheet steel receiver with two 14-inch forged steel barrels, and it could be folded in half at the hinge pin to a length of 15 inches.

The stock half was fitted with a rubber butt plate and cheek rest, and it utilized a storage compartment that held nine rounds of 22 Hornet and four shotgun shells. A firing pin selector

allowed the shooter to choose which barrel would fire first. Cold War-era bomber crews often flew over Arctic regions during missions, so a trigger bar replaced the trigger so it could be fired while wearing Arctic mittens. Later models, such as the Springfield Armory M6 Scout chambered the 22 Hornet, 22 LR and 22 WRM, and all used a .410 bore lower barrel.



Folded, the M6 measures just under 20 inches. Unfortunately, Chiappa does not supply or manufacture a carrying case for their M6, but it would fit inside a survival pack or bug out bag.

CHIAPPA'S M6

The engineers at Chiappa (pronounced: KEY-appa) decided the next phase in the evolution of the M6 was due, and in 2010 their M6 folding shotgun/rifle was released. They started with a new steel skeletonized stock, utilizing a pre-formed polypropylene foam insert, the same material used in car bumpers. The stock's foam insert acts as the recoil pad and cheek rest and allows a firm grip while firing. Added top holes allow for five 22 LR and two 12-gauge shotgun shells to be held in reserve. The last hole at the butt of the rifle contains a cleaning kit with a rope pull through, .22 calibre bore brush, mop and steel pick. The pick is used to help clear any stuck cases from the X-Caliber adapter barrels.

On the bottom right side of the stock, there is a sling stud that works in conjunction with a hole underneath the front sight post, designed for a sling stud or a hook latch. On top of the stock, just above the triggers, the safety selector, if pushed forward, exposes the letter F and allows the M6 to fire. The reverse will expose the S, placing the M6 on safe. The lower half of the stock



A 12-gauge shotgun over a 22 LR gives choices on how best to solve a problem.

contains the lever to open the action, and pushing down on the lever with the firing hand will enable you to access the breech or fold the rifle in half for storage. The two triggers allow you to fire the 12-gauge or the 22 LR barrels independently of each other. The front trigger fires the upper barrel, and the rear fires the lower.

The receiver houses an M-1 Carbine-style peep sight adjustable for height and windage. Distance is adjusted by moving the peep sight aperture to one of four positions, marked 1, 2, 2.5 and 3. Windage is a simple adjustment knob that moves the aperture left or right. The front sight holds an orange fiber

CHIAPPA M6 FOLDING SHOTGUN/RIFLE

Calibre: 12 gauge, three inches; 22 LR; X-Caliber 12-gauge adapter set with case, includes 380 ACP, 9mm, 357 Mag/38 SPL, 40 S&W, 44 Mag, 45 ACP, .410/45 Colt and 20 gauge

Type: Combination

Action: Folding break-open via lever action

Weight: Six pounds/2.7 kilograms

Barrel: 18.5 inches/47 centimetres

OAL: 33.8 inches/86 centimetres

Choke: MC-1 (Modified) Rem choke

Stock: Skeletonized steel with hard foam insert

Rear sight: Adjustable M1 Military Style

Front sight: Fixed fiber optic

Receiver: Three receiver-mounted Picatinny rails

Price: \$750 CAD

Manufacturer: Chiappa Firearms USA Ltd 1415 Stanley Ave. Dayton, Ohio 45404 - 1.937.835.5000. Chiappa is an Italian firearms manufacturer based in Brescia Italy; their US facility, Chiappa Firearms USA Ltd., is in Dayton, Ohio.

CHRONOGRAPH & ACCURACY RESULTS – 22 LR & 12 GAUGE

| Manufacturer | Calibre | AV (FPS) | Accuracy |
|---|----------|----------|------------|
| Winchester Super-X 40-grain HP | 22 LR | 1,183 | 2.3 inches |
| Lightfield 2.5-inch/1 1/4 oz. Hybrid Lite Sabot Slug | 12 gauge | 1,285 | 5.9 inches |
| Hornady 3-inch /1.5 oz./#5 shot | 12 gauge | 1,300 | |
| Aguila High Velocity 2 3/4-inch/1 1/8 oz./#8 shot | 12 gauge | 1,325 | |

The M6 is a sleek package that fits in small spaces.



optic tube and secures both barrels. Three four-inch sections of Picatinny rail are attached to the top, left and right sides of the receiver, allowing for different mounting combinations. The M6 has no mentionable foregrip, and because it's a single shot, overheated barrels likely won't be a problem.

ON THE RANGE

The upper barrel of this model accepts up to a three-inch magnum. It comes supplied with one standard Remington flush-fitting modified choke tube. I tested the barrel using Birchwood

Casey's 12-by-18-inch Turkey Splattering Targets at 25 yards. The first load was Hornady's Heavy Magnum Turkey with nickel plated lead shot. I counted 22 hits, four in the vitals. I then used Aguila's 2.75-inch, high-velocity high brass #8 shot for birds and clays. I counted 48 hits, six in the vitals. I do not doubt that harvesting a turkey or other game birds within this distance would be easily achievable. I also tested the smoothbore 20-gauge using the same target, #8 shot, and distance. My shot pattern dropped somewhat, scoring 34 hits, three in the vitals.

I also wanted to verify how the 18.5-inch barrel would perform hunting birds in a survival situation. I knew from my

pattern testing it would be tight enough, but facts speak louder than words. Shooting clays with a peep sight felt strange; some time behind the trigger made that possible. Lastly, I tested Lightfield's two-and-a-half-inch Hybrid Lite Sabot Slugs; they grouped in the vitals area and would make it easy for the shooter to harvest larger game, such as deer. They will also allow the shooter to defend themselves from much larger predators if the need arises.

For the lower barrel of Chiappa's M6, I used Winchester's Super-X 40-grain HP at 25 yards. I fired five, three-round groups, the best measuring at 2.3 inches. As no two barrels are exactly alike, testing other brands of rimfire



The shotgun barrel of the M6 is bored for readily available Remington choke tubes and is supplied with a modified tube.



The X-Caliber adapter set.

ammunition could tighten the group considerably, making it more accurate for small game hunting.

ISSUES

Unfortunately, my M6 experienced a few problems. Almost 60 rounds into my range session, the front sight slid off and fell to the ground. I would like to believe this to be an isolated event and that Chiappa would ship and fix this defect for the customer at their expense. I also found the polypropylene foam stock material does not have the retention qualities necessary to hold the reserve ammunition securely. I found myself pushing both rimfire and shotgun rounds back into the stock's storage holes during handling, shooting and snapping the action closed. On several occasions, I found myself picking ammunition off the ground. Related to this is the cleaning kit storage cap, which fell off during the testing process, dumping the contents several times. A threaded cap, opened with a coin, key

or cartridge rim, could help eliminate this issue.

The extractor between the rifle and shotgun barrels stays raised when the action is open during the loading process. Therefore, when loading, point the barrels at a slight downward angle. Insert the ammunition and close the action as smooth as possible while maintaining the downward angle. Since the ammunition's raised slightly above the chamber because of its extractor, if not careful, it tends to move backward and fall out or get damaged as the barrel and receiver connect.

I've always appreciated a firearm that can shoot multiple calibres, and with the X-Caliber Adapters this little gun really shines in that department. If you acknowledge the purpose for which it's built and the accompanying limitations, it should serve reasonably well. Shoot and handle it enough to expose any defects and become familiar with the gun, then store it for an event you hope never happens. 🍀

THE X-CALIBER ADAPTER BARRELS

Chiappa also makes adapter barrels which fit inside a shotgun barrel and allow the user to shoot smaller cartridges. Each barrel is seven inches long, weighs 9.5 ounces and is marked with its calibre/gauge. There are eight variations available for the 12 gauge, seven are chambered for pistol cartridges and are rifled, while the 20-gauge adapter barrel is a smoothbore.

With these, you are shooting pistol ammunition from a seven-inch barrel contained inside an 18.5-inch shotgun barrel. This provides the stability of a longarm, but accuracy is not as good as a dedicated rifle. For example, the best I managed at 25 yards was a 1.7-inch group with 95-grain 380 ACP pistol ammunition. With the 40 S&W adapter, my group was almost seven inches. If you took the time to find good ammunition compatible with each barrel, or the barrel of your choice, I firmly believe it would fulfill its role as a survival or camping firearm.

The X-Caliber adapter set comes in a case constructed of sturdy nylon that unfolds to reveal two sides, each holding four of the eight barrels. The case is set up for use on a MOLLE (Modular Lightweight Load-carrying Equipment) compatible vest or pack.

CHRONOGRAPH & ACCURACY RESULTS WITH ADAPTER BARRELS

| Manufacturer | Calibre | AV | AG |
|---|----------|-------|-----|
| Winchester 95-grain JHP | 380 ACP | 1,290 | 1.7 |
| Cutting Edge Bullets PHD 90 grains | 9mm | 1,212 | 3.5 |
| Double Tap Defense 150-grain Nosler JHP | 40 S&W | 1,254 | 6.9 |
| Hornady Critical Duty 220-grain +P FlexLock | 45 ACP | 1,031 | 2.8 |
| Liberty Ammunition Civil Defense 78-grain HP | 45 Colt | 1,874 | 5.6 |
| Winchester Winclean 125-grain JSP | 357 Mag. | 1,722 | 3.4 |
| Barnes VOR-TX 225-grain XPB HP | 44 Mag. | 1,284 | 2.1 |
| Winchester Super-X 2.5-inch/1/5 oz. Slug HP | 410 bore | 1,585 | N/A |
| Federal 3-inch/3/4 oz. Truball Rifled Slug HP | 20 gauge | 1,767 | N/A |

Velocities result from a 10-round average recorded on a Caldwell G2 Chronograph 15 feet from the muzzle. Abbreviations: (AV), average velocity in feet per second; (AG), average group in inches; (N/A), no consistent, measurable grouping.




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The butt and comb spacers blend in well with the modern stock lines.



SAVAGE'S ACCUFIT SYSTEM

The easy way to a properly fitted rifle stock

BY JEFF HELSDON

Last year's update to the Savage 110 line brought some interesting innovations to the bolt-action rifle marketplace. It was an update intended to focus on the gun's looks, but it ended up going further than anticipated.

"The conversation started with style and aesthetics," explained Beth Shimanski, Savage Arms' senior marketing manager. "Everyone agreed we needed to freshen up the Model 110. As we got further into the process, however, we started thinking a lot more about the individual shooter – what their unique needs are and what drives them to ultimately go to a gunsmith. That's when we decided to really raise the bar and make the gun fit better too, and the AccuFit system was born."

LENGTH OF PULL

Adjustment for length of pull is one of those new features. This is the distance from the front of the trigger to the back of the recoil pad. The correct length depends on a shooter's height, arm length and neck length, however, it is often measured as the distance from a bent elbow to the shooter's trigger finger. It's an important part of gun fit.

Savage engineers devised inserts to

change length of pull. Adjustment starts with removing two screws through the recoil pad. Then, with the recoil pad detached, inserts can be added or removed. Four length-of-pull inserts are included to vary stock length from 12.5 to 13.5 inches. Besides adjusting for smaller-frame shooters, this also allows tailoring the gun to fit when bulkier clothing is worn.

"There's nothing magical about fit that mechanically makes a rifle shoot any more accurately," Shimanski said. "But the ability to quickly shoulder the rifle and confidently take the shot can mean the difference between tagging a trophy and missing."

ADJUSTABLE COMB

Likewise, comb height is important to shooter performance, because when the gun is shouldered and the cheek contacts the stock's comb, the eye should be properly aligned with the scope. If the shooter must wiggle his or her head around to find the scope's image, the ability to shoot quickly is lost. Correct comb height results in faster target acquisition and more consistent fit, leading to increased hunter accuracy.

Savage designers noted competitive

shooters usually have an adjustable comb to help provide a proper head position and consistent cheek weld. Often, these systems use knobs to adjust the comb, knobs that aren't practical in hunting situations. The AccuFit system does the same job by using five different comb inserts in one-eighths-inch increments. To adjust comb height, the recoil pad must be removed, and then it's just a matter of snapping in the desired insert.

"There's no doubt in my mind that shooters of all ability levels are going to be more consistent with this system," Shimanski said. "AccuFit is a game changer that will allow hunters to confidently make the toughest shots in all conditions. This is a custom-fit hunting rifle that has all the elements of a precision target stock, but still looks and feels like it belongs in the field."

THE ACCUFIT HERITAGE

The Savage 110 was introduced in 1958 and is now the oldest continuously manufactured bolt-action model in North America. It's a rifle which has developed a reputation for being accurate and economical. More recently, the company has led the industry by adding



The rifle tested grouped under one MOA with three different brands of ammunition.

features like the AccuTrigger, which allows simple adjustments by the shooter to change the trigger pull weight and eliminate any creep. It also introduced two-stage triggers to the masses. Now, many major manufacturers use the two-stage trigger.

Next was the AccuStock, an aluminum-bedding block in the stock, intended to bring custom bedding to the average user. Most stocks contact the action at one or two connection points. AccuStock is in contact with the action along its entire length. "In essence, it's an aluminum chassis with a synthetic stock encompassing the chassis," said Jared Hinton, Savage Arms' communications co-ordinator. And, of course, the model 110 has always had a floating bolt head, close-tolerance head spacing and button-rifled barrels. AccuFit is just the latest custom feature to be added.

NEW NAMES

As part of the redesign, Savage simplified the names of its centrefire bolt actions. For instance, the Predator model was known as 10/110, with short-action calibres being Model 10 Predator and long actions Model 110 Predator. Now this is simplified with all calibres named the Model 110 Predator. The former model 16/116 Weather Warrior is now wearing the Model 110 Storm moniker.

Other models available with the full AccuFit stock include the 110 Bear Hunter, 110 Prairie Hunter, 110 Varmint

and the 110 High Country with a PVD brown coating on the barrel and action. A variation of the AccuFit with the stock only adjustable for length of pull is available with scopes in the XP line. The Apex XP line comes with a Vortex Crossfire II scope, while the Engage XP line ships with a Bushnell Engage scope.

A couple of new models for 2019 also feature AccuFit. The High Country has a fluted barrel and a coyote-brown PVD coating on all metal parts. The new 220 and 212 Turkey bolt-action shotguns also have AccuFit.

THE TEST GUN

I was instantly impressed with the new 110 Storm I tested in 6.5mm Creedmoor, especially the soft grip surfaces which were comfortable to my bare hands. This is fitting, as the Storm is intended as an all-weather gun and features a stainless-steel barrel and bolt. The safety has three positions, with the third spot allowing the bolt to be worked but blocking the trigger and firing mechanism. That safety, by the way, is quiet when moved.

Bolt removal is what has become standard on this Savage line – pulling the trigger while pushing a button in front of the trigger guard.

The recoil pad on the AccuFit is soft, like most modern bolt-action rifles. What's different, however, is that the design of the AccuFit results in a recoil

pad thicker than normal. As a result, my test gun in 6.5mm Creedmoor was extremely soft recoiling.

The gun was well balanced without a scope, and its 7.25-pound weight was reasonable. It's available in 11 standard calibres, ranging from 223 Remington to 338 Federal. Standard calibres also include some unique offerings such as 6.5x284 Norma and 280 Ackley. Five magnum options are available from 270 Winchester Short Magnum to 338 Winchester Magnum.

A lightweight version is available for those looking to shed some pounds. The 110 Lightweight Storm doesn't feature AccuStock or AccuFit and is almost two pounds lighter at 5.65 pounds. Another option is the 110 Hunter, which has all the features of the Storm, except the stainless barrel. The Engage Hunter XP, which is packaged with a Bushnell Engage scope, 110 Hog Hunter and 110 Brush Hunter also have adjustable stock length. Updates to the stock of the Axis II line were also done.

RANGE TIME

The new 110 proved to be an accurate shooter. The best three-shot group at 100 yards, measuring 0.486 inches, was shot with Federal Gold Medal Sierra 140-grain Match King ammunition. Hornady's 140-grain ELD Match and 129-grain Non-Typical Whitetail produced 0.816 inches and 0.766 inches,



The AccuFit system includes three spacers for adjusting length of pull and five different comb heights.



As well as featuring the AccuFit system, this 110 Storm model has a stainless-steel barrel, action and bolt.

respectively. Although this gun doesn't come with a one-inch group guarantee, it easily produces it.

I went to the range twice to seriously test this gun. The first time I shot it in its out-of-the-box configuration. Although it shot great, I could see that with an adjustment to the stock, I could get a more consistent fit. So, I put the AccuFit to the test and found an immediate improvement in consistent cheek-to-stock contact during my second range session.

LIFETIME LOOKS

As you'll recall, Savage says the entire project started with aesthetics and I think it scored a win there, as the inserts look like they are part of the stock. Although, to be up front, I never had an issue with the looks of Savage rifles. And my daughter, who is an expert in how things look, says this gun looks, "Cool."

While AccuFit started as an aesthetics exercise, it evolved into much more. While guns with adjustable combs and adjustable length of pull are common amongst competitive rifle shooters, AccuFit brings this option to hunting guns. Besides providing enhanced shooter accuracy through a properly fitting stock, AccuFit also makes it possible for young shooters to start with one gun and stick with it as they grow, making the 110 a lifetime gun for young shooters. 🏆



Bushnell Revamps Its Line

I used a Bushnell scope in my shooting tests of the AccuFit system and that company also revamped its line of riflescopes last year. They have dropped the Legend and Elite lines to launch the Engage, Prime, Nitro and Forge lines. Gone too is the previous Rainguard moisture-repelling coating with the launch of the new EXO Barrier, which is an improvement on Rainguard by doing a better job of repelling water, oil, fog and debris.

Engage is their entry-level line, although there are some scopes, such as the 2.5-10X44 I tested, that many would not consider entry level. It features a 30-millimetre tube, exposed turrets and side parallax adjustment. The Deploy reticle really performed at the target range, as its MOA hashmarks made windage and elevation hold changes easy. The wide zoom range is ideal for hunting.

The Prime, Nitro and Forge lines move up in quality in this respective order. As the lines increase in quality, so too does the quality of the glass. Nitro, for example, has ED Prime glass to increase brightness and contrast. The Forge line has the best quality and highest magnifications and zoom ranges. These new names also apply to Bushnell's binoculars and spotting scope products.



MAKING A GOOD .22 BETTER

Customizing Ruger's 10/22

BY THOMAS C. TABOR

Few shooters could pose a valid argument that Ruger's 10/22 semi-automatic rifle isn't the most popular .22 rimfire ever produced. Since its debut in 1964, over five million of these rifles have found their way into the hands of shooters worldwide, and there is little indication that popularity will be waning anytime soon. Ruger was able to

achieve that high degree of success by coupling affordability with the 10/22's outstanding dependability.

The first Ruger Carbine 10/22 model has been joined by a flurry of other sub-models, including a Target Lite, Take-Down, Take-Down Lite, Sporter, Tactical, Compact and a Competition model. Some of these come in stainless, while

others are blued; some possess synthetic stocks and others have stocks made of walnut, or a cheaper, less attractive form of hardwood and at least one comes adorned with a laminated stock.

MAKING THE LEGENDARY 10/22 EVEN BETTER
Low initial cost is an alluring trait for many people and, in my opinion, that



factor has played a significant role in the phenomenal sales growth of the 10/22. But manufacturers must walk a fine line in order to keep their prices low. In order to do so, compromises in materials and/or workmanship often take place. In this case, I believe Ruger has done a reasonably good job of maintaining a balance. These rifles function well, but many shooters feel there clearly is a need for improvement.

Rebuilding a 10/22 can be a great deal of fun. Seldom does it involve assistance from a gunsmith and few tools are necessary. Most people find it easy to swap

out the barrel, stock, trigger and other parts. And because of the popularity of these rifles and the ease with which alternations can be performed, a huge number of manufacturers have risen to the occasion by producing a wealth of aftermarket parts.

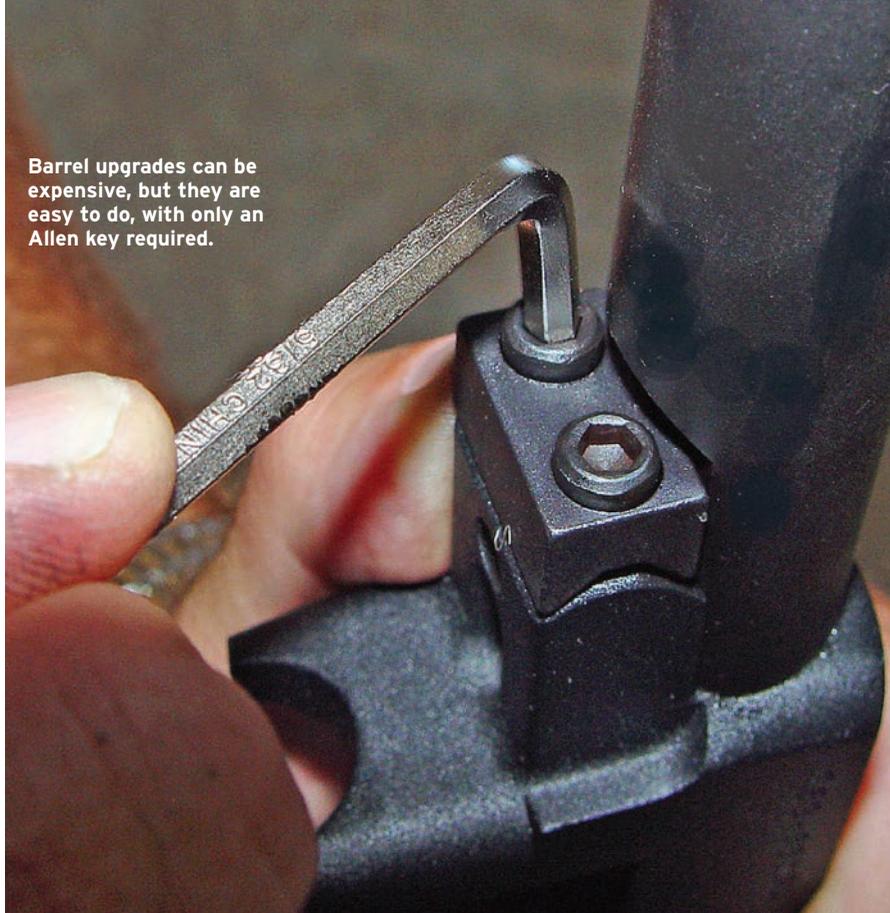
BARREL REPLACEMENTS

Replacement barrels are available from a wide variety of manufacturers. The Delta, BC, manufacturer, Dask Arms, offers a wide selection to choose from, as do many other companies. For my own most recent conversion project,

I used a barrel from Volquartsen and found it to be of high quality, resulting in greatly improved accuracy. The bad news is, like most firearm barrels, a replacement can be costly, sometimes even costing as much or more than the rifle. Nevertheless, in most cases replacing the factory barrel can result in significant improvements in accuracy.

The Volquartsen barrel I chose for that project is a stainless model that comes with a matte black finish to match the receiver of my rifle. It is equipped with I-Flutes and a forward blow compensator, which seems to be more for

Barrel upgrades can be expensive, but they are easy to do, with only an Allen key required.



Timney makes an excellent replacement trigger for Ruger's 10/22.



The Mag-Rotor by Matador Arms is the solution to the RCMP's prohibition of 25 round 10/22 magazines.

appearance sake than for an actual performance improvement. Nevertheless, those characteristics went a long way to improve the overall appearance of the rifle. This is a heavy bull barrel, possessing a diameter of 0.920 inches and measuring 22 inches long (including the two-and-a-half-inch long compensator). At the onset, I was a just a bit concerned that a barrel of this size and weight could put undue stress on its union point to the 10/22's aluminum receiver. To date, however, that hasn't been an issue.

Unlike most centrefire rifle barrels, which are typically threaded into the rifle's receiver, 10/22 barrels are designed as a slip-fit into an accommodating hole in the front of the action. The barrel is then held in place with a barrel retainer block and two screws. Once the retainer block has been removed, the factory barrel usually breaks free easily, but in one case I had to place the barrel in a padded vise, then lightly tap the barrel/receiver union point until the barrel broke free.

TRIGGER IMPROVEMENTS

I feel one of the worst traits of the factory 10/22 is its trigger. Ironically, Ruger might share those same feelings because a couple of years ago they began marketing their own aftermarket

10/22 trigger replacement called the Ruger BX-Trigger. I have only a minor amount of experience with this new trigger, but it does constitute a moderately priced alternative. Ruger indicates it features a light and crisp two-and-a-half to three-pound trigger pull and is said to be easily installed. But there are many manufacturers now offering 10/22 replacement triggers. Timney Triggers is one firm which I have found to produce exceptional products, not only for my 10/22 rifles, but models for centrefire rifles. The Timney 10/22 triggers are easy to install, are adjustable down to very light pull weights and are crisp in their movements.

MAGAZINE IMPROVEMENTS

The factory 10-round rotary magazine is possibly one of the best features that come standard on the 10/22s. While 25-round magazines are prohibited, a potential answer can be found in a product called the Mag-Rotor, which is produced by Calgary's Matador Arms. This ingenious little device allows the shooter to triple their cartridge capacity to 30 rounds in a perfectly legal manner. In this case, three standard 10-round Ruger magazines are mounted in a circular fashion in the Mag-Rotor unit. Once the first magazine has been emptied, it is ejected, the Matador Arms

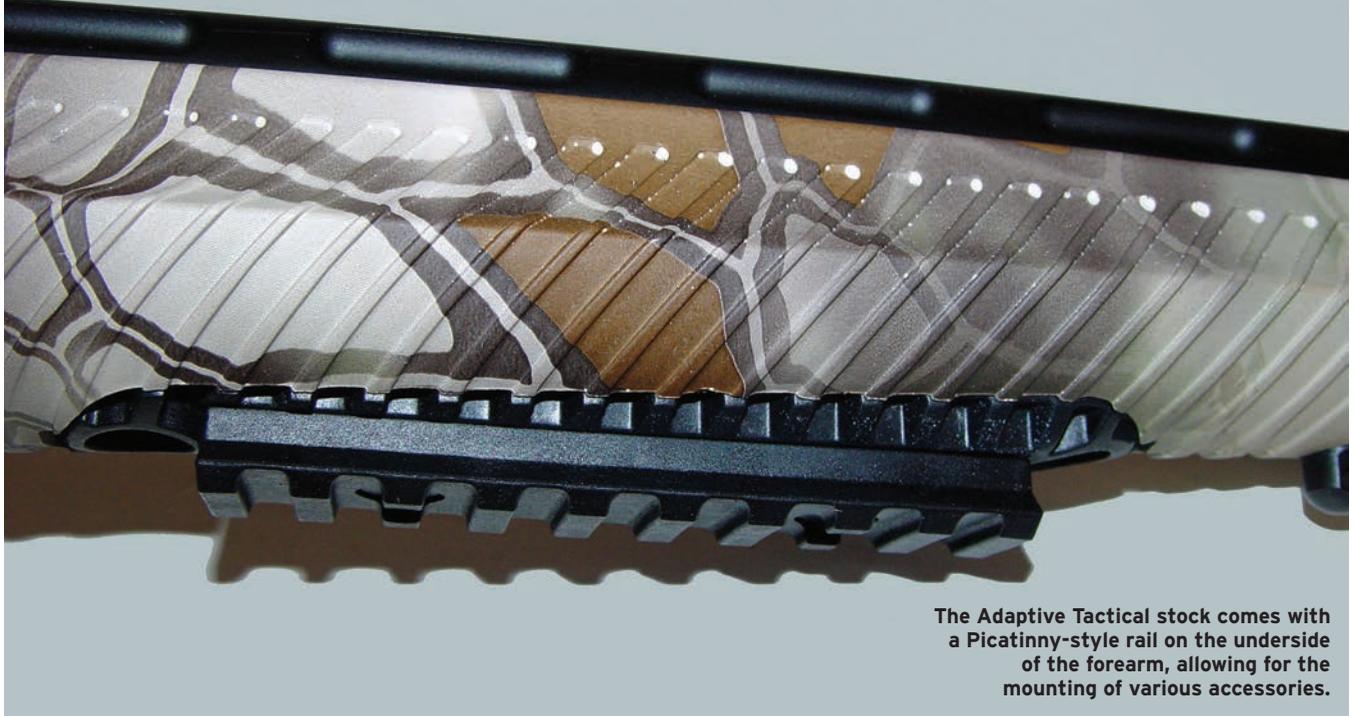
Mag-Rotor is then rotated and the next magazine in sequence is inserted. The creative thinking of this design makes it a great choice for those shooters engaged in high-volume shooting.

Matador Arms also produces an improved magazine release to be used with the Ruger factory triggers. These devices make it easier to release and insert the magazines into the rifle. Matador calls theirs the X-Press Mag Release, and my son-in-law installed one in his 10/22. He reports it took him less than 10 minutes for the complete installation, which only involved removing and replacing two screws and one pin. He felt it was a great improvement over the factory release and liked the fact that he could quickly and easily release the magazine by simply extending his index finger forward to make contact with the lever.

STOCKS

There are a lot of manufacturers supplying aftermarket gunstocks for the 10/22, including Ruger themselves. My own projects have included stocks from Champion, Blackhawk and Adaptive Tactical, but Hogue, ProMag, Magpul, Archangel, Tapco, Tactical Solutions and Advanced Technologies also produce some great aftermarket alternatives.

For my latest 10/22 conversion, I used



The Adaptive Tactical stock comes with a Picatinny-style rail on the underside of the forearm, allowing for the mounting of various accessories.

an Adaptive Tactical RM4 stock in the Kryptek Highlander camo pattern. There is even a model to accommodate the take-down version 10/22s. All these stocks are made of reinforced polymer materials and are adjustable for length, similar to how AR stocks are adjustable. Another unique feature includes built-in magazine storage in the buttstock section for two 10-shot magazines. A Picatinny-style accessory rail is located on the underside of the forearm, where it can be used to accommodate a bipod, a light or other accessories. But if you prefer, that rail can be flipped over to make it nearly invisible. These RM4 stocks can accommodate either a standard, tapered barrel or a large, 0.920-inch diameter bull barrel by using its supplied barrel channel insert. There's also an optional attachment called a TacTred monopod which fits into the pistol grip and provides a shooting support for the rear of the rifle.

I have also installed a Blackhawk stock on one of my rifles. It, too, is able to accommodate any barrel diameter, but

approaches the problem in a different manner. In this case, the barrel rides high over the stock forearm, eliminating any barrel/stock contact. Like the RM4 stock, the Blackhawk Axiom R/F is fully adjustable for length of pull and is a true drop-in fit. My only concern with this design is that it could put undue stress at the union point of the aluminum receiver. But like the potential Volquartsen barrel issue I spoke of earlier, I haven't experienced any problem with this installation either.

A FEW LAST THOUGHTS

Obviously, if you already have a 10/22 rifle that you want to improve, the decision on which of the model rifles to start with was made long ago. But if you are starting at the beginning and plan on purchasing a rifle specifically to alter it, I would give some thought to how extensive your conversion project will be. For example, it really doesn't make a great deal of sense to pay extra for a sub-model with a fancier, more expensive factory stock if you will

be replacing it anyway. For my own projects, I generally begin by purchasing the lowest-priced Carbine model. In this case, once my customization is complete, the only original remaining Ruger parts are the action, bolt and those associated internal parts; virtually everything else winds up in a heap on the bench. 🗑️

CONTACTS

- Ruger:** www.ruger.com
- Adaptive Tactical:** www.adaptivetactical.com
- Dlask Arms Corp.:** www.dlaskarms.com
- Matador Arms Corp.:** www.matadorarms.com
- Volquartsen Custom:** www.volquartsen.com
- Blackhawk:** www.blackhawk.com
- Timney Triggers:** www.timneytriggers.com

ACCURACY COMPARISON BEFORE & AFTER CONVERSION

| Ammunition | Factory Equipped Rifle | | Custom Modified Rifle | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | Group #1 | Group #2 | Group #3 | Group #4 |
| Remington Viper | 3" | 3 3/4" | 1 1/8" | 1 1/4" |
| Remington Target Low Vel. | 1 1/2" | 1 3/4" | 1" | 1" |
| Federal Champion | 1 3/8" | 1 5/8" | 1 1/2" | 1 1/2" |
| Winchester High Vel. | 2 1/2" | 1 7/8" | 3/4" | 3/4" |
| (50-yard five-shot groups) | | | | |





LEARNING TO SHOOT FAST

A bullseye shooter tries IPSC
BY PATRICK HAYNES

For as long as I can remember, I've been a target pistol shooter. My parents introduced me to the shooting sports on my 12th birthday by giving me a single-shot Crosman Mk II pellet gun. It had a thumb rest, adjustable sights, decent trigger and was very accurate. When I was old enough for my own firearms, I gravitated to a High Standard .22, then Walther GSPs and Pardini SPs. I appreciate the ability of a good pistol to reach out and put a round precisely where I want it to go.

Moreover, I love shooting. It doesn't really matter what the game or equipment is, I love getting together with other shooters and making some noise. That's what brought me, normally a slow, deliberate target shooter, out to the Sharon Gun Club with about a dozen other people for one of IPSC Ontario's Black Badge courses with our instructor, Leo Cossetto.

BLACK BADGE

If you aren't familiar with the Black Badge course, it certifies shooters to meet the safety standards for IPSC participation. Yes, they do teach you how to draw, fire, move and swap magazines; but the overarching message is safety. If you learn to safely perform basic shooting tasks within certain time restrictions, you'll pass the course.

The first half day of three days was classroom safety, rules and drills (no ammunition on us or in the building). I quickly learned there's a lot a novice IPSC shooter must keep in mind, including safety above all else, plus all the rules that support safety. Once those were understood, drills were introduced to help us apply the rules applicable to the performance of the skill. Even though I've been shooting most of my life, this was not as straightforward as I

anticipated.

For one classroom drill, Leo had us formed in a line, drawing and dry firing against a wall. I was happy with my draw speed and shot delivery, and I guess Leo liked it too, as he asked me to demonstrate to the class. But my mental game failed me on my first attempt. Instead of performing anonymously by myself, I was now the centre of attention, just like in competition. Let's just say the delivery was unimpressive. We all had a good laugh, especially me. Fortunately, afterwards, I performed the draw correctly, with my pistol leaving the holster making a sound that can only be described as fast.

After reviewing safety and drills in the classroom, we headed out to the range. Instead of shooting from a bullseye competitor's carefully laid-out bench, the IPSC shooter is the bench, but with a holster and magazine pouches. I'd carry everything needed for the basic course of fire.

Right off the bat, I had to switch off some well-ingrained habits. First, abandon the idea of using all the time available for a perfect shot delivery. Decent hits, shot fast, will beat all centre shots delivered in a slow run. Second, forget stopping for malfunctions and re-shooting the series. In most cases, if the gun doesn't fire, you rack the slide, clear the jam and carry on. Third, and possibly the most tragic, end the love affair with the front sight. I've had my eyes tested for tear film quality and duration, learning that I can stare unblinking at my front sight for up to 45 seconds, while settling into my area of aim, for a single shot. Entire IPSC stages are completed in a fraction of that time. Additionally, most stages are shot well below 25 metres, so the angular error for sighting mistakes is reduced. You must >



The Black Badge course certifies shooters to meet the safety standards required for IPSC participation. Pictured, Leo Cosetto demonstrates for his class.



Entire IPSC stages are completed in the time a bullseye shooter may take to deliver one shot, and the course of fire is always changing in IPSC.

aim, but don't get too fussy.

For the remainder of the day, we shot while stationary at varying distances. Everyone was under direct supervision, so the instructors could offer feedback and correct technical or safety errors.

The following weekend, Leo had us incorporating movement and target transitions into our shooting. One example of putting it all together was when Leo walked us through the stage, explaining what we had to achieve to pass it. This stage had two targets, shot from eight positions within a box, putting two shots on target, with magazine changes while moving to the next position, and switching targets. No time limit, but centre shots are required to pass. He then demonstrated what he wanted us to do. On my turn, Leo let me complete the stage, but I had failed upon completing the second position. I fired twice in a row on the same target. From the walkthrough, I didn't properly understand the course of fire and had to repeat the stage (a few times).

I think this is the best example of the difference between IPSC (action) shooting, versus target (precision) shooting. In



The technique of new shooters is closely watched, particularly for safety violations.

the target sports, we try to perform the same course of fire repeatedly. First, we try to develop those skills at our home range, and then we try to duplicate or improve that performance elsewhere under different conditions. The course of fire is identical. If properly coached, you learned on day one what the course of fire will be for your entire target-shooting career. However, at every IPSC match, you are given a new course of fire which meets the match level description. You have an idea of what is expected, but aside from the walkthrough, it's probably new to the novice competitor. Quickly absorbing that information and then figuring out how to perform is a skill on its own. While environmental adaptation and skill refinement are required in all competitive sports, inflexibility and slow pickup quickly knocks you out of contention in IPSC.

SKILLS & DRILLS

At the end of the third day, I passed my Black Badge course. While I had displayed the required skills, my confidence was low. There is a lot going on in an IPSC match and I still wasn't sure how

to prepare. Fortunately, another event soon took place at the Sharon Gun Club: IPSC winter lecture 1 – dry fire skills and drills.

Our instructor for the day was Pat Harrison. He's well known in Ontario as an excellent competitor and a student of the IPSC game. Being a fan of dry firing, I signed up and got in the course, even though I didn't really know what to expect. I'm an internationally certified pistol coach, having the good fortune to coach Canadians around the world, and was impressed with what I saw.

Pat uses part versus whole practice to explain each technique. He breaks down the skill into a series of connected components with distinct milestones. Each milestone is described so you know whether you are doing it right. For instance, drawing your pistol is broken down into four simple steps. First, fix your grip on the pistol with your support hand resting high on your stomach. Second, draw from the holster and get the muzzle immediately down range. Third, continue the draw upwards to eye level while your support hand meets the grip. Lastly, establish your aim as you extend

your arms and firm your grip.

Pat also recommended reversing the operation from aim to holster to find efficiencies in your technique. As a drill, set time to perform the whole practice, while counting off each milestone. Give enough time to achieve perfection at the onset. Perform 10 reps and then decrease the allowed times by perhaps one-tenth of a second. Repeat 10 sets of 10 reps. By the end of the drill, you've performed 100 draws and possibly reduced your time by one second. If your technique fails, then put that extra time back on until you are drawing clean again. Never practice poor technique. This is one of the best ways to teach important, complex, foundational skills.

Both Leo and Pat shared a lot more advice and instruction over those four days. I had a great time, was introduced to more shooters and deepened my enthusiasm for the shooting sports. Whatever your level of experience, taking (or re-taking) a course will offer new insights. And if you think that "your" style is better than "their" style, broaden your horizons and give it a try. You might be impressed with what you see. 

MONEY, TIME & BLOOD

The life of a 3-gunner
BY TYSON SOMMERVILLE



Illustrations by Nathaniel Milljour

Getting into the sport of 3-gun can be daunting. There are a lot of rules, a lot of gear and you perform in front of a group. However, do not be dissuaded. The rules are intuitive once you get into it, as they're all safety and common sense oriented. Don't sweat embarrassing yourself, everyone eventually does, and they all seem to have a good attitude about it. As for all the gear, it only costs a small fortune.

If you're thinking of getting into 3-gun, or any other shooting sport, you should start by asking yourself these few questions:

- Do I have too much money?
- Do I have too much free time?
- Do I see my family too often?

If you said yes to at least two of these, 3-gun may be right for you. The simplest way to get into it is to go to a match. Contacting the league beforehand is a good idea, too. It sounds simple, but social media is littered with people who are stockpiling and perfecting their gear to someday go to a match. Show up with what you've got, if anything, and some boxes of pistol, rifle and shotgun ammunition. I guarantee someone will lend you gear. My first match was quite the swap meet. I was borrowing holsters, guns, mags and belts from five different people, but they cobbled something together for me. Be prepared to lose that first match. Go slow and try not to get disqualified for a safety violation.

Immediately after that first match, while you're still flying high from all the fun, go home and research some entry-level guns and gear and write up a budget. Show that to your spouse and get approval. Then, when they look away, add a zero to the end. You won't spend that now, but you will. Allow me to explain.

You'll probably start with a basic AR, like a Norinco or M&P; a basic 9mm, like a Glock or M&P9;



and just whatever shotgun you have, and, of course, you'll need a bunch of magazines. I like to carry 40 rounds for both my rifle and pistol. Next, it'll be a belt, a holster, magazine pouches and a few shotgun shell caddies. You'll see the cost of the caddies and nearly cry. Before you ask, no, there are no cheap caddies and they almost never show up for sale second-hand.

This will land you in your original budget, get your foot in the door and get you doing matches in the limited division. You'll likely run a season or two this way. Then you'll need an optic, and those don't grow on trees. Of course, you'll want a good one, as a cheap one might lose zero with all those barrel dumps. If you want to stay in limited, you go with a red dot; if you want an actual scope, that will

put you into Tac-Ops.

If you're getting that into it, you may as well upgrade that old pump-action shotgun of yours to a semi, but due to Canadian law and weird capacity loopholes, you need one that takes 3.5-inch shells but will reliably cycle 2.75-inch target loads. It's also around this time that some folks, such as myself, begin to try to do their own gunsmithing. You take a Dremel to your new shotgun to open the port and a soldering iron to it for stippling. Then there's the rattle can paint job, so your gun stands out a little on the rack. Just a heads up, if you don't paint it a masculine colour, some people will act personally offended. Guess how I know that.

After a season or so, the cost of ammunition will start to get to you, >

so now it's time to get into reloading. Since volume is the name of the game, you can hunch over your old single-stage endlessly or get a progressive press, and a good one, since a squib or double charge could be dangerous. Buy once, cry once, right? Congratulations, your reloading setup now costs almost as much as your original 3-gun budget. That's OK, it'll save you money on ammunition; have to think long term here.

All ammunition costs you now are components, your evenings, and usually a dedicated room in your house. At least you can now store all your other gear in that room, too.

This fancy, handloaded ammunition, combined with your optic, will really show you how limiting your AR is, better upgrade that barrel and that trigger. While you're at it, keep your eyes peeled for a sale on a handguard, you'll probably try two or three with various types of vertical and angled grips. In the end though, that super expensive ultralight one will probably be the answer.

Another great way to save money is to start volunteering for the league – that often gives you free entry to the matches. You now also get to design stages, help more with setup and RO. But that's just an extra few hours a month, right?

A common route for free gear is to get some form of sponsorship. Of course, to do that you will need to get good, which means practice. Good thing you have that fancy reloading gear. It's also a good idea to do a lot of dry fire practice every day. This isn't to make you a better shooter, this is just to post to Instagram to help you get followers.

Since companies that sponsor you want you to use as much of their gear as possible, you may as well go to open class so you can put an optic or two on everything. At which point you will need to go to a magazine-fed shotgun and a custom-tuned race pistol to stay competitive. Once you've started spending all of your time posting to social media and spent all of your money on gear, you just might get a sponsorship deal, which might help you get a discount on gear, which is now redundant. But at least you can brag that you're sponsored. You've even got that fancy jersey (that you bought) to prove it! As a sponsored

shooter, you'll be expected to attend as many matches as possible, which means no going to your in-law's family reunion. "Sorry honey, can't miss the biggest match of the year."

All along the way, you'll be doing this so you can spend 14-hour days getting sunburn, windburn, frostbite, or just downright soaked in the rain. Oh, and don't forget the sprains, the cuts on your hands and knees, and the occasional bit of lead ricochet. I once caught a small piece of lead in my hand while filming another shooter. My doctor had to dig the pepper grain-sized particle out with a scalpel. Before that day, I had never seen a medical professional giggle. It was

clearly the highlight of his week.

But on the plus side, you get to go fast and shoot a lot, for about four minutes, total, per day. It's kind of like golf, the better you are at it, the less you do in competition. If you are looking for something less damaging to the body, the wallet, and your family, I would suggest either gambling or the rodeo circuit.

For me though, if I am going down in a blaze of financial ruin, it's with an AR in my hands and hot brass falling down the back of my shirt. If you want to join me, www.3gun.ca lists most matches happening in Canada. Let me warn you though, there's a lot of running. 🚩



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“GUN VIOLENCE” IS A RED HERRING

BY GARY MAUSER

The shootings in New Zealand stimulated calls for banning guns based on the bogus claim that semi-automatic firearms are too dangerous for civilians to own. (But not government officials, of course.) Focusing on the tool misses the real problems. Not only are there seething social tensions in Canada, but for anyone bent on murder, other tools are readily available. The worst mass murder in Canada did not involve a firearm, it was an arson attack in Montreal. Gasoline is not hard to find. Similarly, arson in the US ranks high among methods of killing the largest numbers.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST “GUN VIOLENCE” IS ABOUT WINNING VOTES IN TORONTO AND MONTREAL

Afraid to address the real problems facing Canadians, the federal Liberals fall back on a classic red herring to fool the public, “gun violence.” Trudeau’s Liberals are desperate to sweep revelations about Ottawa corruption under the rug. Instead of attempting to deal with gang violence and high suicide rates among First Nations, the Liberals need a scapegoat to divert Canadian eyes from their failures. Gun owners are a soft target.

Bill C-71 is just the opening move in this minuet. By conflating “gun violence” with “gang violence,” the Liberals have unleashed the man-hating radical feminists to go after law-abiding firearms owners. This excites the Liberal anti-gun base in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. Unsurprisingly, the parliamentary hearings on Bill C-71 degenerated into bashing men.

Bill C-71 alone can’t keep Liberal scandals out of the headlines. The Liberals need a more powerful goad to excite fears about “gun violence” week after week. Former Toronto Police Chief, Minister Bill Blair does this by flying around the country promising funding for guns-and-gangs task forces in urban media markets. He titillates the public by making radical proposals, such as banning

semi-automatic firearms or requiring law-abiding owners to store their firearms in community lockups. Of course, these promises are only good if the Liberals get re-elected. And political promises tend to evaporate after election day.

THE LIBERAL’S CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIVILIAN FIREARMS IS BASED ON FAULTY ASSUMPTIONS
Greater access to guns does not mean more criminal violence. The Liberals want the public to believe that it’s not gangs, but gun ownership which threatens public safety. Parliament ignores the positive role of guns in Canadian society.

It is preposterous to claim that banning something will make it disappear. Ottawa hopes people will believe that more complex firearm regulations (or gun bans) will reduce criminal violence. This is a hard sell, because almost everyone knows banning heroin and cocaine failed to eliminate drug gangs; nor did banning murder thousands of years ago eliminate that. But government arrogance is eternal.

JUST HOW BIG A THREAT ARE PAL HOLDERS TO PUBLIC SAFETY?

Even moose kill more people annually than do PAL holders (16 versus 12 to 13).

At least 10 times as many people die each year due to medical mistakes in Canada than PAL holders are accused of killing (138 versus 12 to 13).

It is not rational to focus exclusively on negative aspects of civilian firearms ownership. Doing so ignores the overwhelmingly positive contribution PAL holders make to Canada – to sport, conservation and culture.

Millions of Canadians own guns legally; most are hunters, who are the mainstay of wildlife conservation. Hunting has considerable economic benefits – tourism, managing wildlife populations, particularly predators that endanger crops and livestock. Teaching firearms safety is an important part of teaching children to take personal

responsibility. Helping young people make wise individual decisions will do more to protect them from harm than will government regulations.

PAL HOLDERS HAVE A LOWER HOMICIDE RATE THAN OTHER CANADIANS

Based on a special request to Statistics Canada, between 13 and 20 PAL holders are suspected or accused of homicide annually, out of two million PAL holders (1997 to 2016). Obviously not all suspects are accused; fewer still are convicted. And this is out of about 200 firearm homicides annually.

These miniscule numbers indicate that PAL holders are much less apt to commit murder than other Canadians. These numbers are so tiny that both Statistics Canada and the police routinely ignore PAL holders when reporting crime. As Senator Pratte has demonstrated, the lion’s share of firearm homicide is committed by criminals (whether it’s 93 per cent or 88 per cent remains a matter of dispute).

Scapegoating civilian firearms owners is a red herring to divert attention from the failures of the police and Corrections Canada. The problem is criminal violence, not gun ownership. Statistics Canada routinely reports that approximately two-thirds of those accused of homicide (and 53 per cent of victims) have a criminal record.

GUN BANS FAIL TO REDUCE HOMICIDE RATES

No methodologically valid study has been able to find convincing evidence that tighter gun controls (e.g., screening of gun owners or gun bans) have reduced general homicide rates or spousal homicide rates.

For example, the Canadian government banned over one-half of all legally registered handguns back in 1995. The ban failed to help public safety. Not only did gang killings continue to increase, handguns remain the murder weapon of choice for gangsters.

FIREARMS AVAILABILITY DOES NOT DRIVE SUICIDE RATES

Suicide is an act of desperation, not opportunity. Suicide rates are shockingly high among First Nations people. Politically, it is easier to blame guns rather than to attempt to grapple with troubling social problems.

SUICIDE METHODS

(2012-2016)

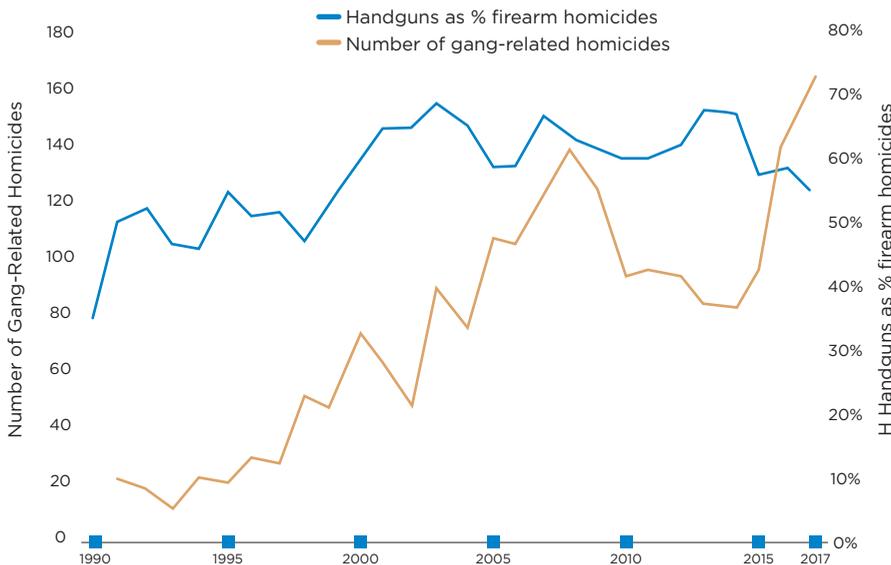
| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Hanging | 48 per cent |
| Poisoning | 23 per cent |
| Shooting | 14 per cent |
| Other | 15 per cent |

Even in the Territories, where guns are readily available, hanging remains, by far, the dominant method.

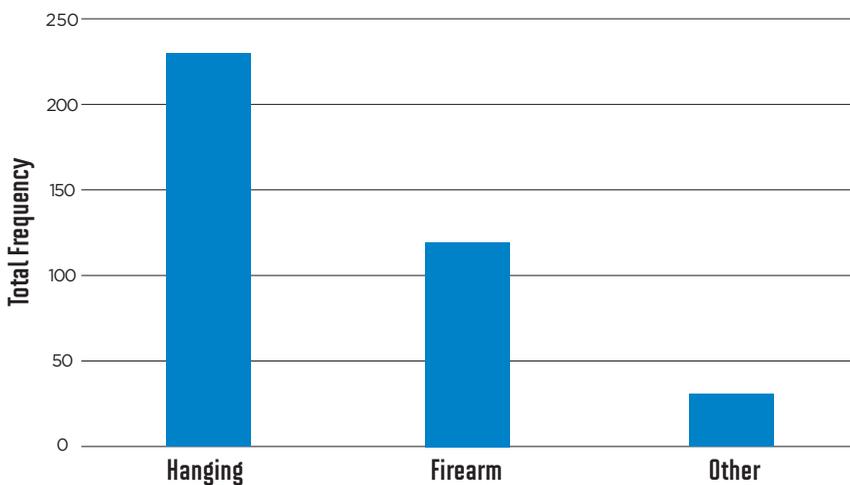
CONCLUSIONS

The focus on assault-style firearms is a red herring to distract attention from the failure of Canada's police agencies to cope with challenges such as escalating gang violence, money laundering and Chinese cyber-attacks. The RCMP is stretched thin trying to cover these problems. Expanding the firearms bureaucracy is not an effective way to defend public safety. 🚫

FAILURE OF 1995 HANDGUN BAN



SUICIDE METHODS, CANADIAN TERRITORIES BOTH SEXES (2007 - 2016)



Source: Statistics Canada Special Request

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Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

The Aftermath Of The Christchurch Mosque Shootings: A Legal Perspective



Pump-action shotguns with a magazine capacity greater than five rounds are now prohibited firearms in New Zealand.

Les fusils à pompe dont le chargeur a une capacité supérieure à 5 coups sont désormais des armes à feu prohibées en Nouvelle Zélande.

NEW ZEALAND FROM A FIREARMS PERSPECTIVE

New Zealand is a country of five million people, compared to Canada's 37 million. In both countries, about six per cent of inhabitants hold a firearms licence. New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy, with a fairly strict gun control scheme. It has a significant Indigenous population, and strong farming and hunting traditions. In almost every respect, it is similar to Canada.

When the mosque shootings occurred, New Zealand already had an extensive gun control regime. By way of example, possession of a firearm without a licence was already an offence, carrying a maximum sentence of three months in jail, and a \$1,000 fine¹. Minimum licensing age is 16². Licensing is discretionary and managed by the New Zealand police³. A licence can be issued if a police officer deems the applicant to be a fit and proper person to possess a firearm⁴. Licences are issued for a duration of 10 years⁵ and are renewable, but can be revoked at any time if a police officer deems the licence holder to be no longer a fit and proper person to possess firearms⁶.

A class A licence entitles its holder to possess ordinary long guns, more or less equivalent to our own non-restricted firearms. In order to possess handguns or what used to be known as military-style semi-automatic firearms (MSSA), a licence holder or applicant required a special endorsement⁷. Prior to the recent legislative changes, an MSSA endorsement was known as an E class endorsement. Again, the issuance of such an endorsement was discretionary⁸, managed by the New Zealand police and subject to compliance with both regulatory and discretionary conditions⁹. Minimum age for an E class endorsement was 18 years. As in Canada, use and possession of pistols is heavily regulated.

New Zealand has no formal firearms

On March 15, 2019, a young Australian man, described in media reports as a "white supremacist," opened fire in two mosques located in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 50 people and injuring 50 more.

Almost immediately, the New Zealand government called for additional gun control measures – a

call which was echoed by numerous governments in the western world.

Within three weeks, the New Zealand government had effected major changes in the firearms legal landscape. This month's column will review what legal actions took place and, to some extent, what it could mean for the future of Canadian gun control.

registry, although every transfer of a firearm (except for class A firearms) is subject to a permit issued by the New Zealand police, and the permit is valid for 30 days¹⁰. As a result, New Zealand has records of every firearm that is legally owned, except for ordinary long guns (class A firearms), which are not subject to that permit system. There previously was universal registration of firearms, but the system was abandoned when the *Arms Act* was passed in 1983, after it was found the official records were highly inaccurate.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Within days of the March 15 events, the New Zealand government passed an Order in Council (OIC), effectively broadening the definition of MSSA, in order to encompass most semi-automatic shotguns and rifles. That OIC was based upon the government's power to prescribe what features make a firearm an MSSA¹¹. The immediate effect of that OIC was to prevent further purchases (or stockpiling) of newly designated MSSAs by class A licensees. The individuals who possessed firearms now captured in the suddenly broader definition of MSSA without an E class endorsement on their licence became overnight criminals, subject only to an amnesty period aimed at allowing them to hand over their now illegal firearms to the police¹². However, keep in mind that the firearms that were re-classified as MSSAs were formerly class A firearms, for which no registry exists.

Effective April 12, 2019, about four weeks after the shootings, the New Zealand parliament passed new gun control legislation¹³.

The main features of the new legislation are:

1. The category of MSSA is replaced with "prohibited firearms."¹⁴ The new category includes all semi-automatic firearms, other than: (i) rifles firing 22 calibre or lower calibre rimfire cartridges with a magazine, detachable or not, capable of holding no more than 10 cartridges and (ii) shotguns with internal tubular magazines holding no more than five cartridges; as well as all pump-action shotguns capable of being used with a detachable magazine; and pump-action shotguns with an internal magazine holding more than five cartridges¹⁵.

2. Magazines capable of holding more than 10 cartridges became "prohibited items," and thereby illegal¹⁶.
3. There are no grandfathering provisions.
4. Only exempt persons may apply for an endorsement to possess prohibited firearms¹⁷. However, that category is extremely restrictive¹⁸.
5. Possession of a prohibited firearm without an appropriate licence (or endorsement) is now an offence punishable by up to five years imprisonment¹⁹.
6. An amnesty period is decreed to allow for the voluntary surrender of prohibited firearms²⁰.
7. The government is authorized to pay compensation for surrendered prohibited firearms, but it is under no obligation to do so. The particulars of the compensation scheme are to be determined by a regulation to be enacted.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

As is almost inevitably the case after such a tragedy, the political response is never to ask: where did we fail, why did this happen, what could we have done better or differently? It is much easier to do more of the same thing, and to blame the tragedy on firearms, irrespective of the real cause. By doing so, politicians convey the clear and unequivocal message that gun owners, as a class of citizens, are responsible for the actions of a lone psychopath, and they must collectively pay the price of that psychopath's criminal actions.

The fact that compensation will likely be offered for surrendered firearms is not borne out of legal obligation. In all likelihood, compensation will be offered as an incentive for owners of prohibited firearms to surrender their guns, because significant compliance cannot be achieved by coercion alone.

The fact this New Zealand legislation targets most semi-automatic firearms is not unheard of. A few years back, Canada's own Bills S-231 and S-223 would have made all semi-automatic rifles (other than rimfire cartridge rifles) and shotguns illegal for anything but range use.

The extent to which New Zealand succeeds in banning and confiscating many firearms that were, until now,

legally owned may very well dictate whether our own government will one day undertake a similar initiative. In Canada, there are currently talks of banning handguns and so-called assault rifles. It will no doubt be an issue in the next federal election. Should the Liberals somehow succeed in being re-elected, we may suddenly find out that New Zealand is a lot closer to Canada than we ever thought. 🇳🇿

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Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Dans La Foulée Des Attentats De Christchurch: La Perspective Légale

New restrictions on magazines in New Zealand include a prohibition of those with a capacity greater than ten rounds.

Les chargeurs d'une capacité supérieure à 10 coups sont dorénavant des dispositifs prohibés en Nouvelle Zélande.



Le 15 mars 2019, un jeune homme d'origine australienne, décrit par les médias comme un suprématiste blanc, a ouvert le feu dans deux mosquées de Christchurch, en Nouvelle Zélande, faisant 50 morts et autant de blessés.

Presqu'immédiatement, le gouvernement néo-zélandais annonçait qu'il adopterait de nouvelles mesures de contrôle des armes à feu, et la plupart des pays occidentaux lui ont fait écho. Moins de trois semaines plus tard, le gouvernement néo-zélandais avait mis adopté des changements majeurs à sa législation sur les armes à feu. Cette chronique discutera des moyens

entrepris et de l'effet qu'ils pourraient avoir sur le contrôle des armes à feu au Canada.

LA NOUVELLE ZÉLANDE ET LES ARMES À FEU : PORTRAIT

La Nouvelle Zélande compte 5 millions d'habitants, comparativement à environ 37 millions au Canada. Dans chacun des deux pays, environ 6% des habitants ont un permis d'arme à feu. C'est une démocratie parlementaire, avec un régime de contrôle des armes à feu plutôt sévère. On y trouve une population indigène importante, et les traditions de chasse et d'agriculture y sont bien ancrées. A bien des égards, ce

pays ressemble au Canada.

Au moment de la tuerie de Christchurch, des règles strictes de contrôle des armes à feu étaient déjà existantes. Par exemple, la simple possession d'une arme à feu sans permis était punissable de trois mois de prison et d'une amende de mille dollars¹. L'âge minimum pour l'obtention d'un permis est de 16 ans². L'émission des permis est discrétionnaire et administrée par la police³. Un permis peut être émis si un policier juge que le demandeur est une personne présentant les qualités adéquates pour posséder une arme à feu⁴. Les permis sont émis pour une durée de 10 ans et sont renouvelables⁵, mais peuvent être renouvelés en tout temps, si un policier détermine que son détenteur ne présente les qualités adéquates pour posséder une arme à feu⁶.

Un permis de classe A permet à son détenteur de posséder des armes longues, semblables à nos armes à feu sans restrictions. Pour pouvoir posséder des armes de poing ou des armes autrefois désignées comme armes à feu semi-automatiques de type militaire (« MSSA »), un détenteur de permis avait besoin d'une autorisation supplémentaire (endorsement)⁷, dont l'émission est également discrétionnaire⁸. Ceux-ci sont administrés par les forces policières et assujettis à des conditions tant réglementaires que discrétionnaires⁹. L'âge minimum pour l'obtention d'une telle autorisation est de 12 ans.

Tout comme au Canada, l'utilisation et la possession d'armes de poing est fortement réglementée.

La Nouvelle Zélande n'a pas de registre formel des armes à feu. Cependant, toutes les cessions d'armes à feu autres que les armes longues ordinaires (classe A) sont assujetties à l'obtention d'une autorisation des autorités policières, valide pour 30 jours¹⁰. Conséquemment, la Nouvelle Zélande possède des données de toutes les armes à feu assujetties à ce système

d'autorisations. Avant 1983, il existait un registre universel, qui fut abandonné en raison des nombreuses inexactitudes qu'il comportait.

CHANGEMENTS LÉGISLATIFS

Quelques jours après les évènements du 15 mars, le gouvernement de la Nouvelle Zélande adoptait un arrêté en conseil, dont l'effet fut d'élargir considérablement la catégorie des MSSA, afin d'y inclure la plupart des armes longues semi-automatiques. Cette initiative découlait du pouvoir du gouvernement de définir les caractéristiques de ce qui constitue une MSSA¹¹. L'effet immédiat de cette mesure fut d'empêcher les détenteurs de permis de classe A d'acheter d'autres MSSA. Ceux qui en avaient acheté alors qu'elles étaient considérées des armes longues ordinaires, se trouvaient en situation d'illégalité et devaient les remettre aux forces policières pendant la période d'amnistie prévue¹², à défaut de quoi ils deviendraient des criminels. Il faut cependant garder en tête qu'aucun registre des armes nouvellement reclassifiées n'existe.

En date du 12 avril 2019, soit quatre semaines après la tuerie, la Nouvelle Zélande amendait sa Loi sur les armes¹³.

Les principaux changements sont les suivants :

1. La catégorie des MSSA est remplacée par celle des armes à feu prohibées¹⁴. La nouvelle catégorie inclut toutes les armes longues semi-automatiques, sauf i) les carabines à percussion latérale dont le chargeur peut contenir 10 cartouches ou moins et ii) les fusils à chargeur tubulaire d'une capacité de 5 cartouches ou moins. Elle inclut également les fusils à pompe utilisables avec un chargeur détachable et ceux à chargeur interne pouvant contenir plus de 5 cartouches¹⁵.
2. Les chargeurs capables de contenir plus de 10 cartouches sont désormais des dispositifs prohibés¹⁶.
3. La loi n'accorde pas de droits acquis aux personnes qui possèdent déjà des armes à feu prohibées.
4. Seules les personnes bénéficiant d'une exemption¹⁷ prévue par la loi peuvent obtenir une autorisation afin de posséder des armes à feu prohibées. Cette catégorie est extrêmement restrictive¹⁸.

5. La possession d'une arme à feu prohibée est punissable par une peine d'emprisonnement allant jusqu'à 5 ans¹⁹.
6. La loi prévoit une période d'amnistie afin de permettre aux gens possédant des armes à feu prohibées de les remettre aux forces policières²⁰.
7. La loi autorise le gouvernement à payer des compensations financières pour les armes à feu prohibées remises volontairement, sans toutefois l'y obliger. Les détails des paramètres de compensation restent à fixer par règlement.

CE QUE TOUT CELA POURRAIT SIGNIFIER POUR NOUS

Comme dans à peu près toutes les tueries par armes à feu, la réponse politique n'est jamais de se poser l'une ou l'autre des questions suivantes: où avons-nous été déficients ; pourquoi cela s'est-il produit ; qu'aurions-nous pu faire mieux ou différemment ? Au contraire, il est beaucoup plus facile de blâmer les armes à feu et d'amplifier les mesures de contrôle existantes, qu'elle que soit la véritable cause de la tragédie. En agissant ainsi, les politiciens envoient un message clair et non-équivoque aux propriétaires d'armes à feu : nous sommes, en tant que groupe, collectivement responsables des agissements criminels d'un psychopathe.

L'offre de compensation financière offerte à ceux qui remettront volontairement leurs armes ne découle pas d'une obligation légale. Selon toute vraisemblance, cette compensation sera offerte à titre d'incitatif à la conformité et en raison du fait que le gouvernement de la Nouvelle Zélande est conscient que la coercition seule, ne donnera pas les résultats escomptés.

La loi néo-zélandaise en ratisse large, mais cela n'est pas inusité. Il y peu de temps, nos propres projets de loi S-223 et S-231 visaient à restreindre aux seuls champs de tir l'utilisation de toutes les armes à feu semi-automatiques à percussion centrale.

Le succès (si l'on peut parler ainsi) que connaîtra l'initiative néo-zélandaise quant à la confiscation et la prohibition de certains types d'armes à feu pourrait bien déterminer si l'on doit s'attendre à une initiative similaire de notre propre gouvernement. Au Canada, on parle déjà de bannir les armes de poing et les soi-disant « armes d'assaut ». Cette

question sera sans aucun doute un enjeu électoral de la campagne à venir. Si les Libéraux devaient réussir à se faire

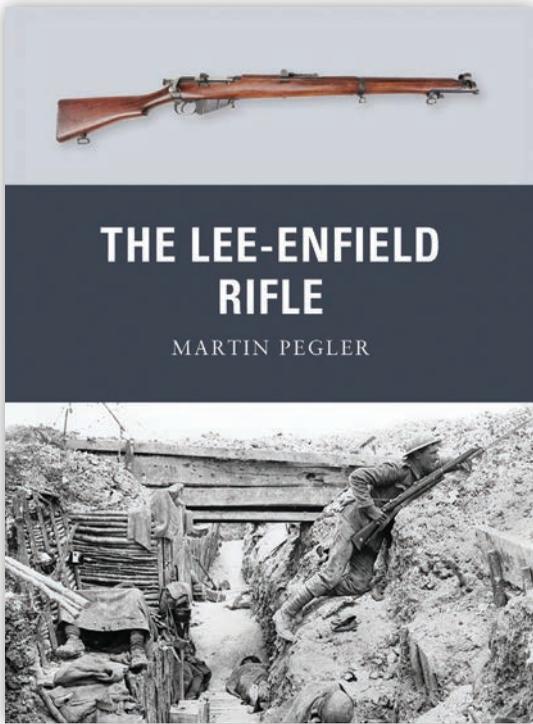
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- ¹Article 20 Arms Act 1983
- ²Article 23 Arms Act 1983
- ³Article 23 Arms Act 1983
- ⁴Article 24 Arms Act 1983
- ⁵Article 25 Arms Act 1983
- ⁶Article 27 Arms Act 1983
- ⁷Articles 29, 30, 30A et 30B Arms Act 1983
- ⁸Article 30B Arms Act 1983
- ⁹Article 33A Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁰Article 35 Arms Act 1983
- ¹¹Définition de MSSA à l'article 2 du Arms Act 1983, et pouvoir de passer des règlements prévu à l'article 74A du Arms Act 1983
- ¹²Source: https://www.police.govt.nz/news/release/police-announce-process-hand-over-reclassified-mssa?nondesktop&fbclid=IwAR1qpc3xo3_210NqWUbkA9xz75rxWREt8lfl
- ¹³Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019 9TnlqOihSE7OCCPrSr8sSE&sfns=mo
- ¹⁴Article 29 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, amendant l'article 30A Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁵Article 5 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, ajoutant l'article 2A Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁶Article 5 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, ajoutant l'article 2B Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁷Article 29 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, amendant l'article 30A Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁸Article 4 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, amendant l'article 2(1) Arms Act 1983
- ¹⁹Article 52 Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019, ajoutant l'article 50A Arms Act 1983
- ²⁰Annexe 1, Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines, and Parts) Amendment Act 2019

NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

The Lee-Enfield Rifle



noting the power of the bolt-action magazine rifle was first unleashed on Sept. 2, 1898, at the Battle of Omdurman. There, the enemy saw 9,700 killed and 13,000 wounded, while the British suffered 48 killed and 340 wounded.

Significant modifications were made to the Lee-Enfield as the Small Arms Committee (SAC) sought to create the perfect rifle. The Short Magazine Lee-Enfield rifle Mk I sent for testing in December 1902 had 72 modifications from the previous Long Lee-Enfield. As Pegler provides technical information in exacting detail, readers will need to concentrate to fully comprehend the material presented.

The No. 1 Mk III Short Magazine Lee-Enfield (SMLE) rifle is certainly

one of the planet's most recognizable firearms. Almost four million SMLE were produced between 1914 and 1918. It represents only one of 13 Enfield models produced between 1888 and 1982.

Soldiers of the British Empire carried Enfield rifles into battle during the First World War to protect their homelands from an aggressive enemy. It proved to be an effective rifle for use in trench warfare, due to its shorter barrel length and 10-round magazine. It was reported that German troops encountering the SMLE thought they were facing machinegun fire.

Contractors in a variety of countries, including the United States, Australia and Long Branch, Canada, produced Enfield rifles to assist in the war effort. Variations produced to arm the soldiers fighting the Second World War included over four million No.4 Mk I rifles and over 24,000 No.4 (T) sniping

rifles. The Mark 5 Jungle Carbine was officially adopted in September 1944. Enfield rifles were used in the Korean War (1950 to 1953) and reportedly fired until they were "too hot to handle." However, by 1957, the age of the semi-automatic rifle arrived and Britain replaced the Enfield with the FN/FAL. The Enfield L42A1 sniping rifle, chambered in 7.62mm NATO, continued to be used until 1982.

The Lee-Enfield Rifle is not intended to be a collector's guide, but it is an excellent resource for those wishing to understand the development and history of these rifles. This book is one of over 20 titles currently published in Osprey's Weapon Series. Most books are firearm related, including classics covering the M1 Garand, Sten gun and Browning .50 calibre machine guns. A full listing of available publications can be found on the Internet by searching "Osprey Weapon Series." Prices vary slightly, but books tend to be in the \$20 range. 

Title: The Lee-Enfield Rifle

Author: Martin Pegler

Illustrator: Peter Dennis

Publisher: Osprey Publishing 2012, Weapon Series

ISBN: Print: 978 1 84908 788 9; PDF e-book: 978 1 84908 789 6

Pages: 80

Size: Soft cover, seven-and-a-quarter inches by nine-and-three-quarter inches

Illustrations: Colour

Photographs: Current – colour; archive – black and white

Martin Pegler, author and firearm consultant, has a resume which includes several academic degrees plus experience as the senior curator of firearms at the Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds. He now lives in Somme, France, where he established the Somme Historical Centre.

In this book, the author explains in detail the evolution of the Enfield rifle from the Magazine Lee-Metford, which replaced the Martini-Henry in 1889, the Lee-Metford being a bolt-action magazine rifle designed to fire the new 303 British cartridge. The military forces of the day were keen on developing rifles more effective in battle than the single-shot rifles of previous generations. Also, high pressure smokeless powders had replaced black powder, making the use of lighter and faster bullets a reality.

Pegler devotes 30 pages to the use of these new bolt-action rifles in combat,

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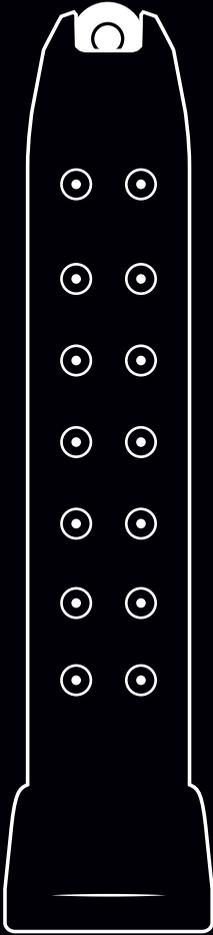
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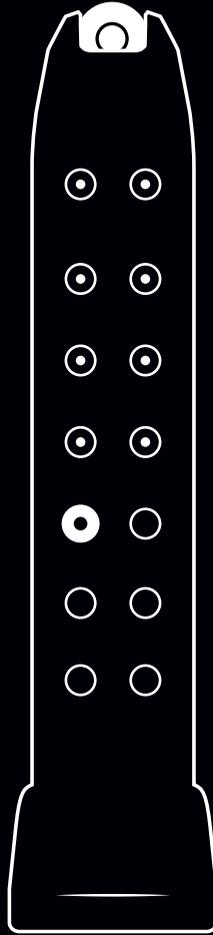
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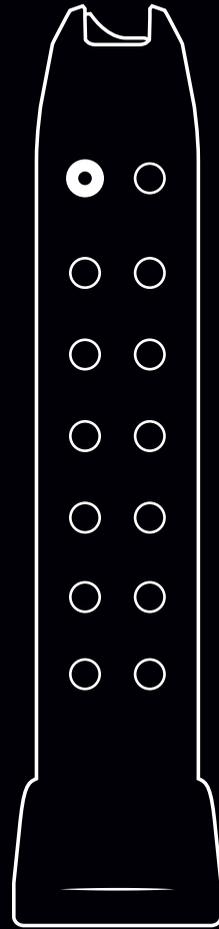
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