

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

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November/December 2019



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

Every year around Remembrance Day, writer Jeff Helsdon looks over the items from the First World War given to him by his grandfather, Clarence Helsdon, who served with the 210th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force based in Moose Jaw. On the left is the pack soldiers kept their personal belongings in, along with a shoulder patch and the insignia given to him from another regiment. Several of Clarence's hunting items are also in the photo. In a letter home from a hospital in England after being wounded on the front, Clarence asked his father to have the deer rifle ready for when he arrived back home. Jeff ensures he pays tribute to his grandfather by using his shotgun every season. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Life After The Election

You'll likely be receiving this issue of the *CFJ* a couple of weeks after the completion of the most recent federal election, slated for Oct. 21. However, I'm writing this four weeks prior to the vote, so I have no idea how it will turn out. But we didn't want to leave you without at least some post-election commentary, so we're imposing on the goodwill of our printer to hold the presses long enough to insert some post-election analysis from the NFA executive. It will have been written within hours of the polls closing and the expert's declaration of projected winners and losers. You'll find it in the next few pages, and all I can say now is that I hope it's good news. Whatever happens, you can expect a complete examination of the results in the next issue.

You'll find some non-election political content in these pages as well, including Gary Mauser's look at some junk

science the media and less-than-ethical politicians have been quoting lately. Check out Bruce Gold's column too, for his take on how the anti-gun crowd has been failing at its task of demonizing firearms and gun owners.

But it's always important to take a regular break from politics, because shooting, collecting, hunting and tinkering with guns is too much fun and too therapeutic to let the politicians ruin it. So, we've included a pair of gun reviews covering a lightweight rifle from Savage and a look at Benelli's over-under shotgun.

We've also got some competition-focused coverage. Jeff Helsdon shot his first-ever match in the Canadian Rimfire Precision Series, and reports on what shooting a rimfire out to 300 metres is like. Lowell Strauss looks at airgun sports in his coverage of PCP airguns, and Tim Fowler interviews a rising young star in the sport of 3-gun.

Young shooting stars are everywhere in Canada and Eric Prevost looks at three others, while lamenting the fact they often get little support from the Canadian press and industry.

Eric makes some good points in his story and I'd like to add that shooting sports organizations are often their worst enemy, in that they often make little effort to publicize or promote their events. As editor of one of the very few sport-shooting-friendly publications in Canada, I average one press release a year from a shooting organization telling me about an upcoming match or program they are running/hosting. I typically must dig to find out what's happening in the shooting sports in Canada, because they make no effort to publicize their events and programs with the gun-friendly press, let alone mainstream media. If you're part of a competitive shooting organization, take note. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Election Results



Although the election results weren't as we would have hoped, Canada's gun community is still here and we will continue to fight.

We are still here. That election wasn't what we hoped – but we put in a very good effort and we did win the popular vote, even if that didn't translate into seats. Thanks for your donations and support that helped our advertising push in the closing days of the campaign. Your efforts helped to defeat Ralph Goodale out of Regina. It's quite clear, given this divided country, that whatever the minority Liberal government looks like, it has no mandate to make sweeping changes of any sort, let alone on disarming Canadians.

So, what's next? Well, it's time to double down. Buy more guns and ammunition, support your local gun store and your local shooting club. Tell them you are NFA and you are not going away. Tell that to your newly elected

MP. Make it clear that you are not giving up your rights and property, and that this new government clearly doesn't have the mandate to make radical changes.

"So, what's next? Well, it's time to double down. Buy more guns and ammunition, support your local gun store and your local shooting club. Tell them you are NFA and you are not going away."

On our point, we will merely increase our lobbying efforts. Our new in-house lobbyist, Charles Zach of Burlington, will have a lot of work to

do in meeting with some minor party MPs to ensure they are educated on firearms issues. We now need to work on lobbying to prevent crazy legislative changes. We need to support parliamentary committee structures that will delay and kill bad firearms legislation. As well, we need to fundraise to support legal action to challenge foolish legislative choices on our issues.

Anyway, it's morning in Canada, and our firearms community is still here. We are not going away; we remain strong and committed to our cause.

Get some trigger time in this winter. We are filled with a great resolve to keep our rights strong, and that is just what we will do. It's time to work towards winning the next election, which may happen at any time. 

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Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Le résultat électoral



It's quite clear, given this divided country, that whatever the minority Liberal government looks like, it has no mandate to make sweeping changes of any sort, let alone on disarming Canadians.

Nous sommes toujours là. Le résultat électoral n'est pas ce que nous espérions - mais nous avons fournis un effort louable et avons gagné le vote populaire, quoique que cela n'a pas eu l'effet de nous faire gagner plus de sièges. Nous vous remercions pour votre appui et vos dons qui nous ont aidé avec nos publicités de fin de campagne. Votre travail a aidé à défaire Ralph Goodale à Regina. Notre pays est maintenant divisé, peu importe quelle sera la composition du gouvernement minoritaire Libéral, il ne détient pas le mandat pour effectuer des changements majeurs de quelque sorte et encore moins de désarmer les Canadiens.

Alors quelle sera la suite? C'est l'heure de prendre des bouchées doubles. Achetez plus d'armes à feu et

de munitions - encouragez vos marchands d'armes et vos clubs de tir locaux. Affirmez fièrement votre appartenance à l'ACAF et que vous serez toujours là en tant qu'électeur. Faites le savoir à votre nouveau député. Affirmez clairement que vous n'abandonnez pas vos droits et votre propriété et que ce gouvernement minoritaire n'a pas le mandat pour faire des changements radicaux.

De notre côté nous allons tout simplement augmenter nos efforts de lobbying. Notre nouveau lobbyiste officiel, Charles Zach de Burlington aura du pain sur la planche: Il devra rencontrer les députés des partis moins populaires pour s'assurer qu'ils deviennent plus connaisseurs envers les enjeux touchant les armes à feu. Nous devons aussi faire

du lobbying pour prévenir des changements législatifs insensés. Nous devons travailler avec la structure de comités parlementaires qui nous permettra de retarder et étouffer de mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu. Nous devons aussi faire des levées de fonds pour s'opposer aux choix législatifs insensés devant les tribunaux.

De toute façon, nous voici le lendemain des élections au Canada et notre communauté intéressée par les armes à feu est présente et en santé. Nous avons l'intention de le demeurer et de nous impliquer d'avantage dans notre cause.

Prenez plaisir à tirer cet hiver. Nous sommes très déterminés à garder nos droits. Il est temps de travailler à gagner la prochaine élection qui peut arriver n'importe quand. 



NFA

FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
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Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

New Challenges



The shifting political fortunes of the day will always present challenges, but Canadians who will not retreat from the values and beliefs that make this nation great have overcome greater challenges in the past, from outside and from within.

It is fashionable in political circles these days to say, "Elections have consequences."

But it is true. The Liberals have formed a minority government in the 2019 election.

It was a close election, and the situation is similar to 2004. The Liberals have lost a majority government and now have a lame duck leader with less credibility in Canada and internationally than existed back then. The CPC has made gains. How long this Liberal PM and leader will last is in question. He is not an asset to the party. His inability to retain majority proves this and will not go unnoticed in the Liberal Party. A lot depends on the CPC now. They will need to continue to demonstrate in Parliament and from coast to coast that they are ready to govern.

Certainly, this minority government will persist with the attempted implementation of Bill C-71. The most vulnerable and economically challenged Canadians will bear the brunt of this as licensing fees continue to increase, and bureaucratic social engineering and creative firearms license refusal and revocation is ramped up. What kind of invasive, dehumanizing process are you willing to endure and how much are you willing to spend on license and legal fees in order to keep that \$50 Cooney? They will continue do their best to convince you that you do not want to hold a firearms license.

The new registration program for rifles and shotguns (non-restricted firearms) will roll out and provincial governments will be encouraged to take ownership of it through provincial registries based

on the Quebec model. Regardless of the now very apparent failure of that registry program.

For the first time, a government has promised to confiscate the rights and property of Canadians with the excuse that they should be compensated with their own tax dollars for the loss of that property. Whether the Liberals can follow through with a "buy back" of the approximately 90,000 restricted rifles they wish to confiscate from Canadians is not certain. Legislation is necessary to facilitate this, as millions of tax dollars are needed to offer taxpayers as compensation for the confiscation of their property.

Despite Canada's punitive and confiscatory gun laws, in the past very few firearms have been confiscated in one fell swoop, in one legislative event. Previously, firearms prohibitions have been followed by a licensing and grandfathering process for law-abiding owners, with a slow and incremental confiscation of property when the owner dies or through one of the many confiscatory opportunities created by *Firearms Act* regulations. This was done in an attempt to avoid ugly and controversial questions of property rights and civil rights, but it achieves the same goal. Owners of prohibited property can be targeted more orderly and efficiently by bureaucracy than with a simple order to "turn them all in." Where this leaves the owners of the approximately 14,000 rifles prohibited under Bill C-71 who were to be licensed, registered and grandfathered is anybody's guess.

Whether the government has the political capital, will or desire to follow through on that promise is unclear. Seriously weakened with a minority, the legislation necessary to facilitate this has the potential to be extremely controversial and politically costly.

Firearms legislation, with its gun control mantra, long ago ceased to be about public safety. It has been a vanity issue for progressives for a very long time. It

is now about the destruction of Canadian rights, freedoms and property at the altar of a world view that is the anathema of people who believe in freedom. Yet it's been imposed with great vigor by those with power seeking simple solutions to complex problems, and by those with the civil disarmament agenda. Always remember that they hold you, me and the very values and concepts that Canada was founded on in contempt. There is no longer compromise possible here, if there ever was.

At this point, we don't know how the political stars may align. We don't know if or how this government will be able to pursue a legislative agenda. Minority governments are generally short lived, and there may not be time for the Liberals to fully implement their civil disarmament agenda. But we do know that it is going to take the dedication and intestinal fortitude of Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms to once again fight it to a standstill, just as

we did from 1989 until 2006.

Those were different times. A different Canada, and a different political landscape. In many ways worse than exists today. But Canadians realigned national politics, changed that landscape and changed Canada for the one we know today. For better or worse, although I like to think mostly for the better.

Our proud culture, our Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership has been attacked, maligned, undermined and dismissed by mainstream media, pundits and the political and cultural elite for decades now. However, they still have not extinguished the ideals and concepts that make us different from other places in the world. The culture wars that were to have decided this issue have backfired on the civil disarmament lobby. They have recently suffered great political and legislative defeats at the hands of Canadian voters.

Canadians have suffered the indigni-

ties, the scolds, the bureaucratic and legal offensives of professional politicians and bureaucrats with great stoicism, and maybe that is the national trait that allows us to keep coming back to reclaim our stolen rights and freedoms. We have the ability to shrug off those blows, to heal, repair and rejoin the battle for our ancient rights and freedoms. Canadians have done it in the past, the very recent past, and we will do it again.

The shifting political fortunes of the day will always present challenges, but Canadians who will not retreat from the values and beliefs that make this nation great have overcome greater challenges in the past, from outside and from within. I once again invite you to join me and the rest of Canada's National Firearms Association, our friends and allies, those Canadians who believe in the enduring and inviolable concepts that Canada was founded on, in taking this fight to the courts and legislatures of this country.



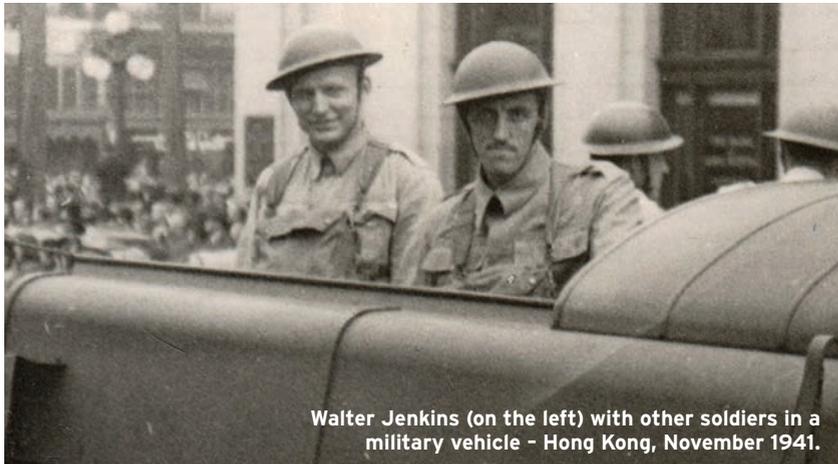
Nathaniel Milijour



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Lest We Forget – Hong Kong’s Forgotten Heroes



Walter Jenkins (on the left) with other soldiers in a military vehicle - Hong Kong, November 1941.

We must not forget that in 1941, while the British were locked in a deadly duel with Germany, their only support was Canada, Australia and South Africa. The Americans were isolationists and not about to get involved. The Japanese, with their colonial expansion in the Pacific since 1931, avoided open hostilities with British Territories. Therefore, the British High Command saw a Japanese attack on any of their colonies as unlikely.

The British High Command underestimated the capability of the Japanese forces, even though that nation had invaded China. The High Command believed the Japanese were small in stature, ill equipped, had poor eyesight and could not see in the dark. However, the British did take the precaution of bolstering the defenses of the Crown Colony of Hong Kong, whose defenders were a mixed military assembly. The troops there included a British garrison numbering 3,652 members, a local militia of 2,428 troops, a Punjabi contingent of 2,254, an auxiliary defense unit of 2,112 from Singapore, the Hong Kong Voluntary Defense Corps of 2,000, plus two regiments of Canadians, the Winnipeg Grenadiers, a medical detachment of 136, and the Royal Rifles, a bilingual unit from Quebec of 1,982 soldiers. Total strength, 14,564.

The dawn of Dec. 7, 1941, produced an epic change in the way the world viewed Japan when their air attack on Pearl Har-

bor found the Americans ill prepared for the oncoming fight. A similar scenario unfolded for the British on the dawn of Dec. 8, when 52,000 Japanese from their 38th Division mounted a brutal and rapid attack on Kowloon and Hong Kong. By Dec. 20, the Japanese controlled half of the island which is Hong Kong. At the Salesian Mission, the Japanese soldiers assaulted and bayoneted the nuns, then killed all the medical staff and the wounded. On Dec. 24, the Japanese troops entered the field hospital at St. Stephens College and repeated the same tragic scene with the assault and murder of the nurses, the execution of the doctors and bayoneting the wounded. The principal order of the day was, "take no prisoners."

Canadians were deployed to Hong Kong in mid-November 1941, only a few short weeks before the invasion. Both the Winnipeg and Montreal units had received a bare minimum of training. They were also ill equipped, with only their rifles, personal kit and very little ammunition, as the rest of their armament had not arrived. The British did loan them one Bren gun carrier.

These heroic young Canadians found themselves in hand-to-hand combat against the fanatical, battle-hardened Japanese, and by Dec. 25 the remnants could no longer sustain the onslaught of the Japanese. There are many firsthand accounts of young Canadians fighting literally to

the death, including the story of a young Quebecer, who, having sustained multiple wounds and could barely move, was beset by a number of Japanese. He dispatched them all as he drew his last breath.

Upon the fall of Hong Kong, the Japanese had no infrastructure plan, and as the garbage piled up, bodies remained unburied and the stink became overpowering. Disease, including malaria, dysentery and beriberi, ran rampant. The flies were unbearable, food was scarce, and conditions became intolerable. During the next four years, imprisoned Canadians were subjected to torture, brutality, beheadings and slave labour as they were shipped from camp to camp, including North Point on Hong Kong Island; Argyle Street, Kowloon; Sham Shui Po Camp, Kowloon; and Niigata-rinko Camp, Ogata-mura, Japan.

The survivors suffered lifelong disabilities, both physical and mental, due to the brutal and inhumane treatment at the hands of Japanese soldiers and prison guards. The rations were meager. A small bowl of rice a day and possibly some fish soup, accompanied occasionally by buns which were burned on the outside and raw inside. The rice was laden with rat feces, but because it provided additional protein, they boiled and ate it using cooking and eating utensils created from cans. Thievery among the prisoners was rife because the Japanese did not permit Red Cross parcels to be delivered, either just storing them or selling them on the black market. During the four years of their capture, they received only two Red Cross parcels each. The POWs were subjected to flies, bed bugs and lice. On the bright side, the ill-equipped prison hospitals were manned by British or Canadian medical staff who tended to the prisoners as best they could.

Winters in Japan can be cold and unforgiving, so the prisoners utilized their technical and foraging skills to survive, including making hut heaters from cans. Two dissimilar-sized cans would be separated by sticks placed between the walls. These cans would have two holes



Walter Jenkins' Hong Kong veteran license plate and his re-creation of a camp drinking mug.



Marriage of Walter Jenkins to Dora Hawes - Nov. 15, 1947.

punched in the rim of each and placed in a ceramic bowl filled with water. The prisoners would then find hidden places where the knob-and-tube electrical wiring went through their hut and bare a small spot in the positive and negative wires. Then, with scrounged wire, they would bare the ends and make two small hooks to place over the wires. They would take these leads and put them through the holes in the can rims, thus heating the two cans and boiling the water which would then heat their huts. When the lookouts saw guards approaching, they would unhook the wires and hide their water-driven furnaces. Such was camp survival.

In the Kowloon prison camp, the Canadians were forced to build the runways of Kai Tek airport, with POWs working from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. most days. All this was accomplished on a diet of meager rice and greens. The project was overseen by a Japanese engineer, whose second-in-command was a Canadian engineer.

The Canadians deliberately mixed low-grade concrete, and as a result the first plane that landed broke the runway and crashed in the ocean. The Japanese engineer lost his head for not being diligent.

Ultimately, many of the POWs were sent to prison camps in Japan and friendships were forged. Two of the young Canadians were Lance Corporal Malcolm John Hawes of the 1st Bn. Winnipeg Grenadiers, who was age 22 when captured. The other was Signalman Walter George Jenkins of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, age 20 when captured. They were both sent to Niigata-Rinko Camp at Ogata-mura, Japan.

Walter's reminiscences include stories of starvation, dysentery, beriberi, slave labour and brutal treatment. One of his accounts is of a short guard who would bring out a box, stand on it to bring himself to eye level with six-foot, two-inch Walter, then slap Walter and insult him to gain a response. Walter had been an athlete in his youth, and as a man of restraint, endurance and fortitude, did not succumb to the vile treatment. When Walter joined the military, he weighed 220 pounds, but on repatriation weighed only 125 pounds.

The Canadians were resourceful, as demonstrated by one of the inmates who was a young Quebecer and a miscreant who had been offered jail or military service by the courts. Of course, he chose the military, where his illicit skills proved useful to his hut mates, including when one of the guards started keeping a goat for milking. He kept it in a compound near the POW huts, so the lad with the troublesome background fashioned a sap from two wool socks and a few handfuls of sand. One night he crept into the goat's enclosure and struck the goat smartly in the right spot, sending the animal to goat heaven without leaving a mark. The guard, finding his goat dead in the morning, asked the camp doctor to examine it.

The Canadian doctor said he could not find a cause of death, but he suggested the goat may have ingested something toxic when it was tethered out grazing. The vindictive guard gave the goat carcass to the prisoners for food, hoping they would fall ill from eating the tainted meat. Instead, the inmates enjoyed a hearty feast.

Walter and Malcolm (known as Mac) were hut mates. Mac had left his bride, Dora, joined the Grenadiers and was then shipped to Hong Kong. On one occasion, the hut inmates scored some Saki, as well as some unknown alcohol, and assumed if they mixed the two, they could drink it safely. On that evening, Walter had a nasty bout of dysentery and, being a non-drinker, handed his drink to Mac and went to the outhouse. On Walter's return, Mac was gravely ill and subsequently died of glycol poisoning on July 7, 1945. As a man of accountability, conscience and honour, Walter carried a lifelong burden of responsibility for Mac's death.

Upon Walter's repatriation, he contacted Mac's widow, Dora, and shared the circumstance of Mac's demise. He felt a great deal of remorse and some days later, feeling he had not shared the information with any compassion, made a return visit to Dora. He apologized once more, a relationship began, and a romance blossomed. Walter subsequently married Dora and lived a full life of hard work and integrity. He forgave the people of Japan, even enrolling in a remedial Japanese language class to brush up on the Japanese learned during his imprisonment, and made a journey to Japan. However, he never forgave his captors or his Japanese adversaries. I knew Walter personally for 26 years until his passing on Aug. 7, 1996. I have remained friends with his sons, who have provided me with a great wealth of material.

These dedicated young men who went to war in 1941 should be revered for their service in preserving our freedoms and our firearms heritage. 🇨🇦

Sources

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Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

The Anti-Firearms Crusade Goes Bust



A gun policy based on the belief that criminal activity can be reduced by ever more intrusive regulation and control of the law-abiding is not the easy sell it once was.

Trudeau's Liberal Party has invested major political capital in the public relations exercise known as Bill C-71. This bill, which tightens administrative procedures for law-abiding gun owners, has no direct impact on violent crime. This political virtue signaling was followed with more than a year of phony public opinion surveys and rumblings about a crackdown on guns, or to be more truthful, a crackdown on legal gun owners. All this activity was part of the Liberal Party's careful preparations for the federal election. Unfortunately, their efforts have not generated the pro-Liberal anti-gun hysteria they were hoping for.

There are several reasons for this failure. The main reason is that the general public is now at least vaguely aware that gun restrictions are having little, if any, impact on crime rates. The theory that fewer guns means fewer crimes has been disproven by events. Canadians are now painfully aware that gun-free zones (the ultimate anti-gun policy)

have not been an effective response to violent crime (over 90 per cent of mass shootings take place in gun-free zones). Consequently, the public's appetite for turning Canada into one giant gun-free zone has had little appeal outside of a few political activists. That such a policy would also require the eradication of a centuries-old tradition of hunting and firearms ownership, with the accompanying destruction of a multi-billion-dollar industry, has not increased public enthusiasm.

The second reason for the public relations failure is that a significant proportion of the gun community has awakened to the fact they are being scapegoated with a deliberately false, cynical, anti-violence cover story. The do-nothing, say-nothing, organize-nothing crowd is no longer the voice of the Canadian gun owner. The old strategy of divide and conquer to eliminate the gun community, one gun type or activity at a time, is no longer working.

Another reason for the failure of the

anti-gun crusade is that many Canadians are now aware that the Montreal Massacre, the Liberal's poster child for gun control, was everything but typical of supposedly violent, dangerous, misogynist Canadian gun owners. Demonizing gun owners for votes is simply not getting the desired traction. Another less well-known fact is that the original anti-gun crusade was a desperate and successful attempt to divert attention away from a massive failure of government policy and practice. In the actual event of the Montreal Massacre, the students' reliance on the government for safety and self-defense proved fatal. It is now clearly known that the high victim count had more to do with the slow police response, and the brutal fact that even after they arrived the police just stood outside and made no effort of any kind to rescue the women or in any way inconvenience the killer. The coroner's report also clearly stated that given the police unwillingness to even attempt a rescue, the type of gun involved had

nothing whatsoever to do with the result.

The general public has also exhibited a growing awareness that the Liberal's fundamental approach to public safety is flawed. A gun policy based on the belief that criminal activity can be reduced by ever more intrusive regulation and control of the law-abiding is not the easy sell it once was. The attendant belief that strict regulation of inanimate objects will prevent willful human misuse of such objects has also come into question. These changes in political climate and public awareness are bringing the major tenants of the Liberal's anti-violence policies into question.

A difficulty Trudeau and company are facing is that there is now nothing left to regulate. The entirety of guns, ammunition, ownership, sale, use, transportation and storage are now regulated. There are simply no regulatory or legal loopholes left to close, no additional bit to crack down on. Therefore, since all criminal use of guns is already illegal, the only remaining option is to intensify the assault on the traditional common law right to arms with more restrictions.

Another nasty problem is that the Liberal's political activity has inspired the gun community to bring forward facts and debates the government would much rather not have raised anywhere near an election. As a result of these developments, we are beginning to see just how amateurish and half-baked the whole area of gun law and policy are.

For example, the auditor general's statement that the government (Firearms Centre) should provide actual performance targets and outcomes that show how their activities contribute to public safety, rather than just report on their activities. This criticism targets the bureaucratic practice of pretending activity is the same as accomplishment. A good example is the Canadian Police Information Centre's use of the firearms databases to alert police to the presence of law-abiding firearms owners and registered guns (unlicensed guns and criminals are not part of the system, so no warning is given). The thousands of daily hits on the system have been used as confirmation of how useful the system is and how desperately important these checks are to police. Unfortunately for the anti-gun crusade, it has now come out that these firearm checks



The entirety of guns, ammunition, ownership, sale, use, transportation and storage are now regulated.

are being automatically generated irrespective of the actual enquiry or police interest. This sham is supported with the deliberate decision that no records be kept to determine how many checks actually involve firearms. No records are kept to determine how many, if any, of the firearms enquiries are an officer safety issue rather than just more administrative churn. This pathetic piece of bureaucratic fraud is still being used to justify the necessity of the multi-million-dollar gun control regulatory process.

Absent hard numbers on actual outcomes, the whole system shifts towards a circular regulatory justification where the process itself justifies the process. The process starts with the careful reporting of things like the number of licenses issued, combined with the unstated assumption that the law-abiding's compliance with the licensing process will somehow bring criminal activity with unregistered guns under control. The term double-illegal comes to mind, since the criminal use of guns is now being made "more illegal" with the addition of a host of previously non-existent administrative crimes. The licensing process then becomes "proof" of the law's effectiveness because there are now thousands of licenses.

How does this paper exercise impact public safety back in the real world? Both for good and bad is the answer. The complete regulation of all aspects

of firearms doubtless prevents some crimes and deters some people. The complete regulation of all aspects of firearms also diverted billions of law enforcement dollars and tens of thousands of police hours into purely administrative duties. A good insight into assessing whether there is a net benefit or not can be reached examining some Statistics Canada figures. In 2003, there were 161 gun homicides in Canada. Assuming each shooting involved a separate registered gun, we can calculate what percentage of legal Canadian guns were involved in these murders. If we take the official figure of seven million guns, we get $(161/7,000,000 = 0.000023)$.0023 per cent. Only 23 ten thousandths of one per cent of the Canadian gun stock was involved in a homicide. This tiny reward for our massive deployment of law enforcement resources ignores the fact that most crime guns are not registered, so our actual payback is even less.

Trudeau and his Liberal Party's latest spin is to claim that while it used to be the case that "crime guns" where primarily smuggled in from the US, legal gun owners are the now the primary source. This was supported by the RCMP who began to count guns involved in purely administrative crimes as "crime guns" in the same category as murder weapons. Found guns were also assumed to be crime guns to pump the numbers. Research then revealed that the source of crime guns in Canada is not a statistic that the government collected and the spin about the law-abiding was based on a shoddy collection of incomplete, low-quality numbers. Is it any wonder the anti-gun crusade is going nowhere? 

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GUN GIFTS

Ideas for your personal Santa Claus

BY AL VOTH

Once Remembrance Day is behind us, thoughts of Christmas aren't far behind. Certainly, it's when retailers begin promoting gift shopping in earnest. But since most shooters don't want socks or ties as gifts, here are some suggestions for things you might really want.



\$100

BÖKER KNIVES

Knives have always been essential tools for hunters and shooters, and we've never had a better selection of quality cutting implements to choose from. Böker, of Solingen, Germany, is one of those modern firms fulfilling our need for great knives. The company can trace its roots as a toolmaker to the 17th century but started knife-making in 1829 by producing sabers. There's even a Canadian connection in the company history. Today, they still make swords, but also manufacture pocketknives, fixed-blade knives, kitchen knives, razors, multitools and axes. Böker is somewhat unique in the knife trade in that they manufacture knives covering a wide price spectrum. If a \$50 knife is your cup of tea, they have that. But if you don't mind dropping \$1,000 on a pocketknife, they have something for you too. But regardless of price, there's a lifetime warranty against defects in materials or workmanship. Just beware of imitations. Like all legendary products, unscrupulous Asian factories are producing cheap knockoffs marked with the Böker name. Your best protection is to buy from a reputable dealer. The knives pictured here include a fixed blade, with gut hook, from their line of hunting knives, as well as a folding pocketknife with a Damascus blade fabricated from 71 layers of steel. Both models are under \$100.



ARACHNIGRIP SLIDE SPIDER

People with limited grip strength often have problems racking the slide of a semi-auto pistol. Young people, the elderly, and some adult men and women just don't have the strength to overcome the tension of the recoil spring. As a result, they go through all kinds of contortions, often unsafe, in order to load or unload the chamber of a semi-auto handgun. However, the folks at ArachniGRIP have come up with a unique solution to this problem. It's called the Slide Spider and it's the ultimate interpretation of traction applied to the slide of a pistol. The Slide Spider is simply a grip-tape-like material precision cut to fit across the top of the slide and into the cocking serrations of a typical handgun's slide. Of course, all handguns have different patterns and dimensions in this area, so Slide Spiders are cut to fit each specific make and model. I've been running one on a Glock 22, and while I don't normally have any problem cycling the slide, the addition of the Slide Spider significantly increases finger traction on the slide. It's especially welcome in cold weather when my fingers aren't as nimble as they could be. And as a bonus, it adds a little flash to an otherwise bland Glock. Price is \$20 US, and you can order direct from the manufacturer: www.arachnigrip.com.

MTM SHOTSHELL BOX CADDY

It's impossible to visit a busy rifle range without seeing colourful MTM plastic ammunition boxes on the shooting benches. However, MTM's shotshell storing and carrying products aren't as well known. But a new item added to their shotshell line, called the Shotshell Box Caddy, might change this. It's a sturdy plastic carrying caddy with enough room for four 25-round boxes of 12-gauge shells. It'll fit standard paper factory boxes of 2.75-inch shells, or you can put handloads in the four plastic boxes that come with the caddy. For handloaders, these clear plastic boxes are also available as separate items in packs of four. The caddy also has storage in the handle for two shells, which are inevitably needed for those do-over shots. There's even a slot in the side of the caddy for storing folded paper boxes, the lids from the plastic boxes, or your smartphone. Every Canadian gun shop worthy of the name carries MTM products and you should be able to find this item there for less than \$20.



FENIX PD36R FLASHLIGHT

A good flashlight is as much a necessity as a good knife, and Fenix makes good lights. I've been using their PD36R light lately and it's an impressive piece of kit. It has all the features you'd expect from a quality light, including an aluminum body that won't roll, a tail-cap switch capable of momentary or constant on, and waterproof/shockproof construction. I really appreciate that you don't need to toggle through the tail cap switch to access the five different illumination levels. A button near the head of the light performs that task and allows the user to set the illumination level that will appear when the on switch is activated. There's even a tiny LED on this button which indicates the status of the rechargeable battery. Yes, there's no need to buy expensive odd-sized batteries to get the 1,600-lumen performance this light is capable of. Just plug it into a USB port and charge up. At the highest illumination level, the light will last almost three hours, while it'll stay lit for 115 hours at the lowest setting. It comes with a holster, spare O-ring, charging cable, two-way pocket clip and a lanyard. Price is \$100 US, and a good place to get it is direct from the Fenix store: www.fenix-store.com.





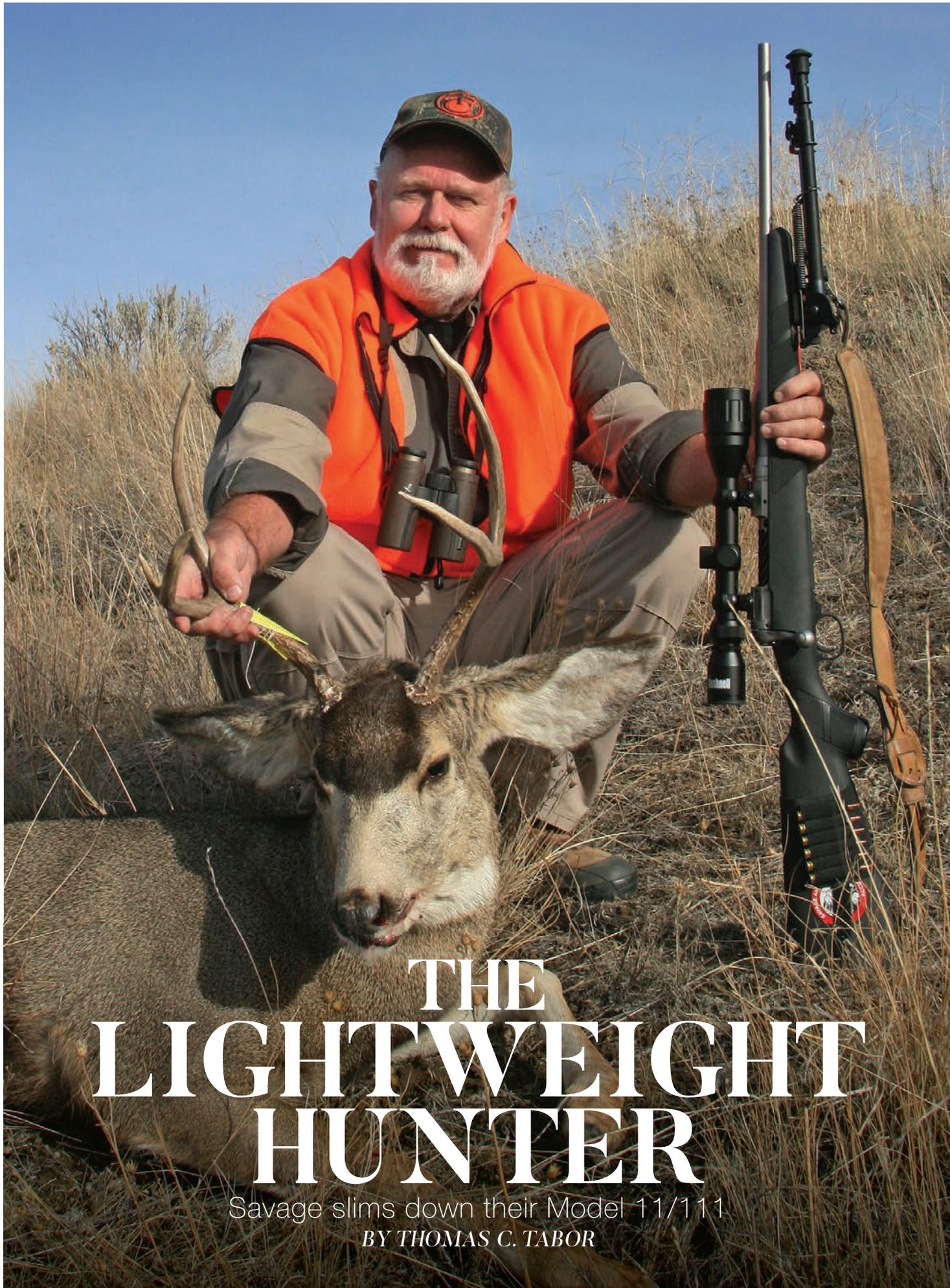
SCENTLOK OZ RADIAL

Most hunters are becoming aware of the usefulness of ozone generators to eliminate human scent and thus improve their chances of success in the field. I've certainly been using them in this capacity, but I think they have a much broader application as well. For those who are late arrivals to this technology, these units generate O₃ (ozone) molecules which attack the human scent molecules, oxidizing them and reducing or eliminating that human stink. But they also attack all scent molecules, meaning their usefulness is much broader than just for hunters. I've been using SCENTLOK's OZ Radial 400B unit for a year now and can confirm that it is effective at even the toughest non-hunting jobs, including eliminating the odour of kid-puke in a vehicle, as well as an entire Starbucks latte soaked into a Honda's carpet in mid-summer. The OZ Radial charges its battery via a USB port, so it can be used anywhere. It also operates in several different modes, allowing the operator to set the desired amount of O₃ being generated. These units have enough usefulness that everyone (not just hunters) should have one available to handle those tough odour-killing jobs we all encounter. Price for the 400B is about \$300 CAD. But SCENTLOK has some new models coming out and they may be available by the time you read this. Your local gun shop may have them. If not, check Cabela's.

LEUPOLD BINOCULAR TRIPOD ADAPTER TRAY

Multipurpose tools are always appreciated around here and the Leupold Binocular Tripod Adapter Tray is one of those. Leupold markets these as a way of mounting any binocular on a tripod, making observation steadier and less tiring. While it certainly works in that capacity, I've found other uses for it too. The base of this rig will fasten to any removeable tripod plate with a 1/4x20 mounting screw. Once it's attached to a tripod, a binocular is placed on the tray and the top strap is cinched down. That top strap is a heavy-duty elastic strap with Velcro sections, so it's adaptable to just about any binocular design. I found the tray particularly useful for supporting range-finding binoculars when measuring long distances. That prompted me to try monocular-type rangefinders in the tray as well, and I found that thanks to the elasticity in the strap it works equally well for those devices, holding them vertically or horizontally and much steadier than what's possible by hand. It even works for comparing optical performance in rifle scopes, as two scopes can be clamped into the tray simultaneously (if you wrap the now-too-long strap once around the base). On my list of winter projects is the construction of two split hardwood blocks with a pair of holes bored in each, one for 30-millimetre scopes and another for one-inch tubes. That should allow me to mount a pair of scopes much quicker and keep them both looking at the same distant spot. The Leupold Binocular Tripod Adapter Tray is a useful optical accessory that costs about \$25 and can be found/ordered at any Leupold dealer.





THE LIGHTWEIGHT HUNTER

Savage slims down their Model 11/111

BY THOMAS C. TABOR



A crucial part of the Savage manufacturing operation is straightening the barrels.

In recent years, many hunters have discovered the advantages inherent in lighter weight hunting rifles. I'm one of them, and like many others my initial reluctance was based largely on a fear I would be sacrificing too much accuracy simply to have a rifle less burdensome to carry in the field. Nevertheless, after one season of swapping out one of my usual eight-pounders for a little five-and-a-half-pound (2.5-kilogram) Savage Lightweight Hunter, I am hooked on the concept that in some situations light might actually be better.

I came by my own Lightweight Hunter rifle in a bit of an unorthodox manner. Upon receiving an invite to tour Savage Arms' Westfield, Massachusetts, factory, I was offered a unique opportunity. As part of that tour, not only would I be permitted to witness each phase of the rifle-building process, I would also be allowed to construct a rifle myself. I could select any model the company produced, and once that rifle was completed, I could call it my own.

After giving considerable thought as to which rifle I wanted to build, I eventually settled on the Lightweight Hunter. However, at the time none of the available calibre choices really appealed to me. That was when I discovered something I didn't know about Savage. A customer can, on a special-

order basis, sometimes request customized changes; and if those departures can be accommodated, approval is often granted.

In this case, I inquired if I could possibly construct my Lightweight Hunter chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor, and management agreed. Ironically, shortly after I'd completed my tour, the 6.5 Creedmoor was added as a standard calibre for that model. I'm quite sure the company wouldn't be willing to give me credit for the idea, but nevertheless I can at least take pride in the fact that my Lightweight Hunter rifle is likely the first ever to be produced in that calibre.

THE FACTORY TOUR

After I was given a factory walk-through in the morning and allowed to see each process of rifle production, in the afternoon I got my hands dirty constructing my own rifle. It all reinforced just how innovative Savage Arms is in their techniques and designs. For example, rather than using the more common method of constructing their bolts from a single, solid metal bar, Savage uses a floating, integrated bolt head design. That design ensures only a very minor amount of float and 100 per cent full engagement of the bolt lugs. While some shooters may view the appearance of this design as a bit less attrac-

tive than others, it is now being widely copied by other manufacturers. Savage believes it is superior, and as a bonus is more economical to produce. And that benefit of lower production costs can then be passed on to consumers in the form of lower rifle prices.

All Savage barrels are produced in-house at the factory. Not having to farm that work out to another company gives Savage better overall control of the quality of their barrels. There are several types of rifling common today, including hammer forging, cut rifling, broach rifling and button rifling. All Savage barrels are button rifled, as this is what they feel produces the highest degree of accuracy.

Manufacturers all face the problem that the metal used to produce barrels contains a certain amount of stress. That built-in stress can frequently result in distortions, twists and imperfections in the trueness of final products. And as that metal moves through the necessary machining and production processes, the problem can be magnified. In the case of barrels, those stresses show up as bends which can adversely affect the shooting accuracy of the rifle. In order to correct this problem, Savage employs a solution believed to only be used by one other barrel manufacturer.

After the barrels have been contoured >

The new rifle shot well from the bench.



The Savage Lightweight Hunter rifle is trim, lightweight and attractive.



Fluting of the bolt body helps reduce the rifle's weight to 5.65 pounds.

and rifled, they move on to Savage's straightening process. Only three individuals (one for each of the three shifts) within the company are qualified to perform this process. During my tour, that person on duty was Shepherd Towe, who at that time had 12 years of barrel straightening experience under his belt. In order to perform his duties, Towe first mounts the barrel in a cradle which is pointed directly at a backlit white screen. Peering down the bore he looks for tiny lines that convey to him the problem areas he is looking for. Once found, three hydraulic pressure points are used to engage the barrel and force it back into perfect alignment. While the amount of distortion varies from barrel to barrel, Shepherd says he straightens them all to ensure the ultimate degree of perfection.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE LIGHTWEIGHT HUNTER

One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of Savage Arms is the development of the Accu-Trigger. While this trigger is not installed on all of Savage's centrefire rifles, it is used on the Lightweight Hunter. This design allows the trigger to be set to a light pull weight, yet it remains safe for field use. At the heart of this design is a tiny lever called the Accu-Release, located in front of the trigger. In order for the sear to release the firing pin, the Accu-Release must be compressed as part of the trigger-squeezing process. In most

cases, the shooter does not even realize this process is taking place. The beauty of this design comes into play if the rifle should accidentally be bumped or dropped, as the Accu-Trigger design prevents the rifle from firing.

My rifle was built with a black composite synthetic stock, but the model now comes standard with an oil-finished, American walnut stock. The Lightweight Hunter 20-inch barrel is trim, and the bolt is spiral fluted, which not only helps to lighten the rifle, but that spiral fluting adds greatly to its overall attractiveness. The detachable magazine holds four cartridges and, if desired, a fifth one can be fed directly into the chamber. The three-position safety is located on the tang of the receiver, making it easily accessible and provides the option of being able to

open the bolt without placing the safety in the fire position.

Every rifle built by Savage undergoes strenuous and thorough testing throughout the assembly process. Multiple checks are made throughout construction, right up to final completion. After being assured the rifle is capable of safely firing into a bullet trap, the rifle moves on to the company's underground 100-yard tunnel range where accuracy is verified.

ON THE RANGE & IN THE FIELD

At the factory, I mounted a Bushnell 4-12x AO scope on my Lightweight Hunter then zeroed it on the company's tunnel range. After being satisfied as to its accuracy, I moved on to the packaging department where I applied the usual decals and packaged the rifle for shipping to me. Once the rifle arrived, I headed to my range.

Shooting both Hornady factory-loaded ammunition and some of my own handloads, I began by punching holes in paper at 100 yards. The accompanying chart provides an overview of that performance. After being confident of its overall shooting abilities and accuracy, I turned the muzzle toward a series of metal silhouettes located at varying ranges. Out to 375 yards, I found that virtually every time I squeezed the trigger, I was rewarded by the sound of the bullet making impact.

By the time all this had taken place, the end of deer season was quickly approaching. But I had held out filling my buck tag in hopes of using my new Lightweight Hunter for that purpose, and it all came together the day before buck season ended. At about 130 metres, I caught a muley buck standing broadside. Sending a single Hornady 129-grain, factory-loaded bullet to its destination just behind the front shoulder filled my tag, as a few moments after the bullet impacted, the buck crashed to the ground. But I still had a mule deer doe tag left and, fortunately, a couple of weeks remained in that season. A few days later, a fat, dry doe was headed to my freezer. This time the muley was standing angled to me on an open hillside about 200 metres away. She was well aware of my presence and simply refused to turn broadside. Finally, deciding I wasn't going to get a better opportunity for a shot, I positioned the crosshairs and squeezed the trigger. After a slow turn and a couple of steps she, too, like the buck, was heading to the meat pole.



The Lightweight Hunter comes equipped with Savage's famous Accu-Trigger.

THE WAY I SEE IT

I could not ask for better performance from my new Savage Arms Lightweight Hunter, either on the range or while deer hunting. The rifle simply performed its duties flawlessly. The light weight of the rifle made it a pleasure to carry in the field, and while some

of my other rifles may shoot tighter groups, I feel shedding some rifle weight is worth that minor trade-off. Of course, only you can make the decision whether the Lightweight Hunter would match your own personal hunting and shooting needs and style, but clearly, I feel it matches mine very well. 

Savage Arms Lightweight Hunter (Three-shot 100-yard groups)

Hornady Factory-Loaded Superformance 129-grain SST SPF		
Average Muzzle Velocity	Smallest Group	Average Group
2,878 feet per second	7/8-inch	1.5-inch

Handload 123-grain A-Max & 34 grains IMR 8208 XBR powder		
Average Muzzle Velocity	Smallest Group	Average Group
2,561 feet per second	1 3/8-inch	1 3/5-inch

Handloaded 123-grain A-Max & 38 grains Hodgdon Varget Powder		
Average Muzzle Velocity	Smallest Group	Average Group
2,758 feet per second	1 3/8-inch	1 3/5-inch

The handloading data shown here proved safe for use in the specific firearm tested, but may not be safe in all or similarly constructed firearms. It is strongly recommended that only reloading data published by reliable sources be used and that maximum loads be approached cautiously.



REDEFINING THE OVER-UNDER

Benelli's 828U breaks new ground – & clays

BY JEFF HELSDON

Although every company has its own proprietary mechanics, most of the over-under shotguns made in the last century work on the same principles. That is, until now. Benelli's new 828U is the largest change in over-under shotgun design in more than 100 years.

Certainly, Benelli is best known for its semi-automatic shotguns, and particularly its Super Black Eagle line. Although this gun is held in high regard, many hunters don't realize the company's history regarding innovation.

COMPANY ROOTS

Benelli's history goes back to 1911, when it was originally a motorcycle manufacturer. However, the family members were also hunters and realized as early as 1940 how important the semi-automatic shotgun would be in the future. Then, when Italian inventor Bruno Ciolani came up with the concept for an inertia-powered shotgun,

the Benellis launched their company using his design. This was in 1967, and the Model 121 became the fastest operating shotgun the world had seen, able to cycle five rounds in less than a second. Since then, there have been many other firsts in Benelli's line of semi-automatic shotguns.

Andrea Luini, export sales manager for Benelli Armi in Italy, said the company is about innovation. He said their mission statement is, "to be the most innovative company in our sector." Adding, "We are a relatively new company and invest a lot of money in research, development and new technology." That philosophy has followed through to their first over-under gun, where the goal was to make improvements from butt to choke.

THE 828U

The 828U, which is named for the UNESCO number assigned to Benelli's hometown of Urbino, was released as a

hunting model in 2016. A competition version, the 828U, was launched this year. Both have many features never seen before on an out-of-the box over-under shotgun. And in keeping with that, the gun has a distinctive, modern look.

Picking up an assembled 828U, it's quickly apparent this gun is different. Normally, with a break-action gun, the hammers are cocked by opening the gun. With the 828U, this function is completed by moving the opening lever. As a result, the normal stiffness (and break-in period) with a break-action is eliminated.

The AA walnut stock has over 40 different adjustments available through a series of shims and spacers which change the drop, cast and alter the length of pull. "This is the only over-under you can customize for fit without changing the stock," Luini said.

With the need to tame the backlash from 3.5-inch waterfowl and turkey

loads in its semi-automatics, Benelli has always been a leader in recoil reduction technology. What they learned there has been adapted for the 828U, giving it a built-in system for recoil management in the form of their ComfortTech system, which uses a series of baffles in the base of the stock to vary the recoil compensation according to the power level of the shotshell.

An examination of the gun's action also makes it apparent this gun is different. Usually the breechblock in a break-action is a part of the receiver. But with the 828U, the breechblock locks directly to the monoblock, containing all pressure from the shotshell and preventing its transfer to the receiver and hinge pins. This eliminates wear on the hinge and receiver, the place wear typically occurs first.

Opening the gun also makes it apparent the ejection system is different. "The ejection system in the 828U utilizes the impulse from a fired shot to activate the ejection system and also eliminates the need to have a link between the forend and trigger assembly, keeping everything contained in one area of the firearm," said Shane O'Connell of Stoeger Canada.

The barrels are cryogenically frozen, spending 24 hours in a freezer at a bone-chilling minus 135 degrees Celsius. This results in longer barrel life and increased ballistic performance with less shot deformation. Likewise, the choke tubes are cryogenically frozen, and therefore called Crio tubes.

The safety is fairly normal, although it is a little wider than many. It re-engages each time the gun opens. Barrel selection is done through a switch on the safety, which I found easier to move than on some competitor's guns.

With an aluminum receiver and no mid rib between the barrels, the 828U is light, weighing just six-and-a-half pounds. The vented rib is carbon fibre, contributing to the light weight of the gun. It is also removable and interchangeable. Barrel options range from 26 to 30 inches, and the gun will take both 2.75 and three-inch shells. An anodized black version, as well as a silver version, are available.

THE SPORTING VERSION

Benelli's spirit of innovation continues with the 828U Sport, which was introduced at the SHOT Show this January. This isn't simply a matter of putting a



Benelli adapted their ComfortTech system to the 828U, giving it a built-in recoil reduction system.



The breechblock locks directly to the monoblock, containing all pressure from the shotshell and preventing its transfer to the receiver and hinge pins.



Choke tubes are cryogenically frozen, and therefore called Crio tubes.



Both the Sport version (left) and the hunting model (right) of the 828U feature a removable trigger module.

wider rib on the gun and dressing it up a bit, although the wider rib is one of the tweaks done on the competition version.

"The 828U Sport has been created with features based on feedback collected by Benelli from competitive shooters around the world, with the intent of making an O/U model specifically for the clay target shooting scene," O'Connell said. "Some features from the original design were kept and many others added, such as a balance system and the new integrated sight channel built into the rib."

The balance system he refers to are tungsten weights included with the gun that can be added at the rear of the stock to change the gun's point of balance. The integrated sight channel

is a textured channel built into the rib, different than the flat or grooved ribs which are the industry standard. The flush-mount choke tubes, which are standard on the hunting version of the gun, are replaced with extended versions with the word "Sport" engraved on them. Choke constrictions are discerned by notches in the end of the tube or the writing on the tube.

Other changes on the competition model include replacing the aluminum receiver with one of steel. This adds strength in anticipation of the high round count competition guns are subjected to and adds a little weight in the middle of the gun to further absorb recoil. The steel receiver moves the gun from a lightweight six-and-a-half pounds to 8.05 pounds. The remov-

able comb is also not part of the Sport package. The trigger can be adjusted forward or back to allow the trigger reach to fit the shooter. Although an option isn't included, the rib is replaceable with a lower version. Barrels for the Sport are only available in one length, 30 inches.

SHOOTING THE 828U SPORT

The AA walnut stock, sleek lines and "Sport" imprinted across the receiver make quite an impression when the gun is put together. And that assembly was the only hiccup with the gun I tested, in that I found it a little trickier to put together than a typical over-under. However, this became notably easier after the first time.

The gun fit naturally to the shoulder



The 828U utilizes the impulse from a fired shot to activate the ejection system.



and pointed beautifully on trap targets. Several other shooters at the gun club also tried the gun and all agreed it was well balanced and shouldered fine. The 828U is made to shoot with a higher percentage of shot above the point of aim. This is standard for all Benelli guns, as the company finds it aids shooters in connecting with rising clays and hitting waterfowl. And it works wonderfully for trap. The many adjustments available on the gun allow further refinement of the point of aim.

The wide competitive rib and channel made target acquisition easy. I didn't find myself missing the middle bead at all, as the gun fit naturally, and I wasn't adjusting my head to get the right picture. I was impressed with how recoil was reduced with the Progressive

Comfort system, even when I shot one-and-one-eighth-ounce shells.

Trigger pull was crisp, with no creep. I tried both modified and full chokes for trap, finding the full choke dusted the targets. The modified worked well, and improved modified would be ideal for 16-yard targets. An unexpected shower while I was at the trap range provided a good test of the checkering through its ability to provide a secure grip in wet conditions. This gun would be ideal for clay busting no matter what the weather.

Taking the gun to the skeet range provided a taste of how it performed with different shooting disciplines. It became apparent from the way the targets were turned to powder with the improved cylinder choke that purchas-

ing another cylinder choke would be ideal if skeet was the regular game shot with this gun. Overall, my impression was the chokes shot a little tighter than marked.

The balance point, as set up from the factory, is at the front of the receiver. This worked great on trap. With skeet, I would have preferred a quicker swing to the barrels. One of the advantages of this gun is the weight system can be used to adjust that.

The 828U is available at Canadian dealers, with the hunting version selling for a little over \$3,000. The competition-focused Sport model is more expensive and will set you back about \$5,000. Benelli set out to redefine the over-under shotgun with the 828U. In that, I believe they have succeeded. 



PCP AIRGUNS

From pest patrol to the podium

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

First prize is \$5,000 USD, plus a Daystate factory trip for two to the UK, and your choice of any \$7,500-value Daystate production rifle. Yes, it caught my attention, too. This was the top prize in the 2019 Extreme Benchrest Pro Class. It was just one of \$34,000 in cash and prizes up for grabs at the annual Extreme Benchrest airgun competition in Phoenix, Arizona.

And prize money continues to grow. In 2020, the grand prize for first place in the Rocky Mountain Airgun Challenge 100 Benchrest (Pro Class) will be \$20,000 – doubling the prize money from 2019! Prize money like this attracts top shooters from around the globe, as manufacturers fight to develop the best gear in hopes of their airgun brand appearing

in the winner's circle. It's a competition that's driving unprecedented advancements in airgun technology.

One of the major advancements in airgun technology is the pre-charged pneumatic or PCP airgun. So, what does that mean? The pneumatic portion of PCP just means these guns use ordinary air (highly compressed) to launch pellets, and pre-charged means that the air supply is stored on board the gun in a special tank. So, after loading a pellet, the airgun is pretty much ready to shoot and all you need to do is squeeze the trigger. There's enough air in that special tank for a multitude of shots, as only a small amount is bled off on each shot.

If an airgun is not pre-charged, the shooter needs to compress the air

required to fire every shot. This requires the leveraged compression of either a piston or a spring to fire each shot. Anyone who's spent an afternoon shooting one of these spring-powered guns knows they are tiring and slow to shoot. Once the tank of a PCP is charged, shooting them is effortless, meaning it's a whole new airgun world out there.

THE PCP ADVANTAGE

I saw my first pre-charged gun at my local gun club. The club's junior coach showed me a competition air pistol used for 10-metre target shooting. With its moulded handgrip and long, sleek barrel perched above a black air cylinder, it was like nothing I'd ever seen before. The accuracy of these target pistols and rifles

was impressive. A toonie easily covered the ragged hole from 60 competition shots on a backer target. This was at 10 metres, unsupported, from the standing position with a pistol. Accuracy is one of PCP's strong points.

Most PCP guns use an air regulator, stepping the high-pressure compressed air in the storage tank to a lower operating pressure. This ensures shot-to-shot consistency without a drop in performance. It's not uncommon to achieve 60 or more full-power shots before the muzzle velocity starts to drop. The number of shots depends on the size of the air cylinder and the amount of air used for each shot. Some PCP regulators are even adjustable, allowing shooters to fine-tune their guns to optimize number of shots with ballistic performance.

PCP guns typically cost more than springer guns. However, in the last few years entry-level PCP rifles can be found for under \$500 (MSRP), making them an affordable option for a high-performance airgun.

PCP airguns are the primary type used in competition (though there are springer divisions for some events) and the preferred choice for hunting where quick follow-up shots may be needed. Let's explore some of the shooting sports where we use PCP airguns.

HUNTING

In Canada, many entry-level airguns are designed to shoot less than 500 feet per second and as such do not require a possession and acquisition license to purchase and use (they are not considered a firearm in this context). These airguns are adequate for shooting small pests like house sparrows, grackles, and ground squirrels at close distances. However, these plinkers lack the power to penetrate feather, fur and bone, thus cannot deliver a lethal shot to larger critters.

More powerful airguns, available in larger calibres (and using heavier pellets), have increased the popularity of airguns for hunting. Power levels go all the way up to big bore PCP rifles like the Umarex Hammer. This is a .50 calibre rifle that launches 200-grain slugs at 1,055 feet per second, or alternatively, 550-grain slugs at 790 feet per second with 705 foot-pounds of energy. These hard-hitting airguns can kill heavy-boned big game animals like black bear, oryx and even cape buffalo. In between these two extremes are a myriad of airgun options for hunting small and medium game.

While some airguns are up to the task



PCP airguns are powerful enough to humanely dispatch gophers and other small pests.



Joel Goodwin shooting at the World Field Target Championships in England. Joel finished fifth overall.

of hunting, the game laws in many places have not yet caught up to the technology, so read your hunting regulations before you head to the field. In Saskatchewan, for example, the 2019 regulations say it's unlawful to hunt big game with a "large calibre air rifle, pneumatic firearm or similar device that uses compressed air."

COMPETITION

Airgun competitions around the world have advanced airgun shooting sports. The most obvious is the Olympics and 10-metre airgun shooting. Shooting sports like benchrest, silhouette and precision rifle are highly competitive disciplines, and now they are hosted at elite airgun competitions.

FIELD TARGET

Field target is a popular shooting sport in the UK and is growing in popularity on this side of the pond. The aim of the sport is to shoot the hit zone on targets shaped to resemble small game animals or simple geometric shapes. On most competition targets, delivering a shot to the hit zone trips a lever that tips the faceplate backwards. Targets reset by tugging on a length of cord attached to the faceplate.

The rules vary between matches, but generally targets are placed at distances from 10 to 55 yards (out to 100 yards in American field target rules) and must be shot within a time limit.

The Canadian Airgun Field Target As- >



The FX Impact is a competition airgun used by serious competitors when cash and medals are on the line.



Modern airguns like this FX Impact have air cylinder pressures up to 250 bar or 3,625 PSI. A regulator then delivers shot-to-shot consistency.



Field targets come in all shapes and sizes.

sociation assembled a Canadian team, which competed in the World Field Target Championships in England this past summer. The team did exceptionally well, with Team Canada member Joel Goodwin finishing fifth overall. The Canadian team finished only 18 points off third place and 25 points out of second. I look forward to seeing more from this group of accomplished shooters and hopefully the growth of field target in Canada.

BENCHREST

Benchrest shooting tests competitors' ability to shoot in the wind, pushing their skills and equipment to the max. Distances of 25, 50, 75 and 100 yards are typical. A match consists of two qualifying rounds and a finals round, both at 100 yards. A round consists of 25 targets with 25 total shots in 30 minutes. Participants use airguns up to .30 calibre with production diablo pellets. Two of the biggest in North America are Extreme Benchrest in Phoenix, Arizona, and Rocky Mountain Airgun Challenge in Springville, Utah.

PRECISION MARKSMAN CHALLENGE

Precision Rifle Series (PRS) matches have exploded in popularity in recent years, and the Precision Marksman Challenge Course is the airgun version of these matches. Shots from a variety of positions and obstacles, all made against the clock, make this sport extremely challenging. Reactive steel targets provide instant feedback on hits and misses. The design of these events ensures that only the best all-around shooters rise to the top.

A person wearing a brown jacket, a blue hoodie, and a brown baseball cap is aiming a rifle with a scope. They are positioned behind a white plastic container on a snowy field. The background shows a snow-covered path leading towards a utility pole and some buildings in the distance.

REACHING OUT WITH RIMFIRES

Shooting the 22 LR at 300 metres

BY JEFF HELSDON

"That's crazy," said the shooter I was sharing the range with while sighting in my rimfire rifle. His response was understandable, as I was trying to determine the amount of drop my 22 LR has at 200 metres, while explaining what I knew about the Canadian Rimfire Precision Series (CRPS). CRPS is based on the centrefire Precision Rifle Series game, which uses a series of shooting challenges at ranges between 300 to 1,000 metres. The rimfire version features the same types of challenges, but the distances are limited to about 300 metres. Put another way, shooting a rimfire at 300 metres is akin to shooting a centrefire at 1,000.

THE BEGINNINGS

Here in Canada, CRPS owes much of its origin to Rick Katigbak, who, although not a lifelong shooter, has accomplished huge milestones both for him and Canadian shooters in general in a short time. Rick grew up in the Philippines, but only started shooting seriously here in Canada. He started with Service Conditions Rifle matches, a military-style competition shot at distances from 100 to 500 metres, also trying his hand at Close Quarter Battle matches.

Katigbak then heard about Project Appleseed, an American program that teaches the fundamentals of shooting. After Project Appleseed held an event in Bancroft, Ont., in 2013, it started a series of events in motion that led to a Canadian version of the program called Project Mapleseed.

"The reason I got involved in Mapleseed is I was looking for a program stressing fundamentals," Katigbak said. "I heard about Appleseed and there was going to be an Appleseed event in Bancroft. I attended and met the other founders of Mapleseed."

Katigbak started to talk with Doug Crawford, Kevin Latham, Kelly Melanson Wheaton and Mario Calcagni at the Appleseed event. All decided to launch a Canadian version, appropriately called Project Mapleseed. They held the first events in 2017 and were already up to 400 participants at 35 events coast to coast last year.

For Katigbak, there was a need to take the skills learned through Maple-



Obstacles can be awkward, so shooters get creative in their efforts to steady the rifle.

seed, apply them and further challenge shooters. He was aware of the Precision Rifle Series, and its rimfire National Rifle League counterpart. "Shooting can be an expensive sport," he said. "We wanted to have something that is affordable."

CRPS launched in 2018 with six events – three in Ontario, one in Quebec, one in Alberta and one in British Columbia. Katigbak founded CRPS himself and attended all. By the time you read this, 10 events will have been completed in 2019 – five in the west, five in the east. Katigbak is organizing CRPS as a volunteer, one who has a full-time job and family. He did point out it would be impossible without the support of his wife.

The event I shot at East Elgin Sportsman Association, near Aylmer, Ont.,

hosted 65 shooters, with most averaging 45 to 50 participants. You can find the schedule, match results, rules and more at their website: www.rimfireprecision.ca.

With a lot of Canadian gun ranges having only 100-yard ranges, Katigbak has a shorter version of the course called Outlaw Precision Rimfire. This is just getting off the ground. Gun clubs can order the targets and report scores on a national online database.

THE EQUIPMENT

There are two divisions in CRPS: Production and Open. Competing in Production requires a rifle with a maximum MSRP of \$500 and a maximum MSRP of \$500 for the scope. Anything more than that will be in Open. During competition, there >

Here in Canada, CRPS owes much of its origin to Rick Katigbak.



are a few differences in what's allowed, but all competitors shoot together. For example, in Production the spotter can tell the shooter if a shot is high or low, but not Open.

Katigbak suggested an adjustable scope is important, with a minimum of 9X magnification. He believes 12X or more is better. Alternately, a scope with a graduated reticle is an option. Or, for those who are shooting for the first time, as I was, holdover can be used. Although a target rifle isn't necessary, accuracy is important.

"The thing with rimfire is each rifle will have a preferred ammunition," Katigbak said. "You have to test to find the most consistent loads. Unlike centrefire, we can't tune our loads. It isn't always the most expensive ammunition that shoots the best."

He also pointed out that some ammunition might shoot well at 100 metres, but not 150, so test at both distances. In my case, I tested several brands and found Eley Force to be the best. From benchrest, I had groups less than a half-inch at 100 metres.

MATCH DAY

Prior to the start of the shoot, Katigbak ran through the first five stages. The first was shot while resting the rifle on a plastic barrel. There were six targets, starting at six inches in diameter and going down to one inch. The targets were shot at 80 metres, with one point per hit. Shooters had to engage the first target until hit. At that point, a decision was required whether to attempt a shot at the second target, as a miss on that one resulted in a score of zero, and the requirement to start over. There was a 10-shot, two-minute limit for the stage.

"And the plastic barrel is really wobbly," Katigbak joked during the introduction.

The day was set up with five stages in the morning and five in the afternoon. Shooters were divided into five groups to shoot each stage.

A stage called suburban vehicle operations raised some eyebrows. When receiving the course outline two days prior to the event and reading, we were shooting through the vehicle window, I (and others) pictured a vehicle pulled onto the range. When doing his introduction and pointing to a child's Cozy Coupe, Katigbak joked about people envisioning full-size vehicles and said this car was the original one that travelled across Canada



Rifles used range from basic to custom, but all need good optics to see and hit targets.



Confined shooting spaces are one of the challenges shooters encounter.

with him since the founding of CRPS.

"Shooters fire through the prone position at a four-inch diamond plate at 125 metres, a six-inch plate at 150 metres and 175 metres. Two hits are necessary on a target before moving to the next. Once all three targets are hit, the shooter moves to the vehicle roof and repeats. The stage is 12 shots and 120 seconds.

Stage three involved shooting two shots each at a four-inch square from 80 metres from various positions. The catch was the left side positions had to be shot left-handed and right side right-handed.

The next stage involved shooting a five-inch spinner target at 150 metres and advancing through different 'windows' after two hits. There were six windows, 12 shots and a two-minute time limit.

The last stage of the morning involved shooting from a tank trap, which is basically a tripod made from 4x4s. Targets were 12-inch squares, ranging from 200 to 275 metres. To put that in perspective, my ballistic chart said the holdover for my ammunition was 9.5 feet.

The afternoon started with a 25-metre target shot from a stack of tires. Targets started at 2.5 inches in diameter and ranged down to one-quarter inch. The shooter didn't advance until a hit was scored. Ammunition was unlimited, but there was a 70-second time limit.

"For those who don't know, a quarter-inch is basically a bullet hole," Katigbak said. "This station is not fair. Life is not fair."

The next stage found competitors shooting through 12-inch diameter tubes at a boar at 250 metres. Three shots were fired from each tube in two minutes. A



A busy firing line at a rimfire match.

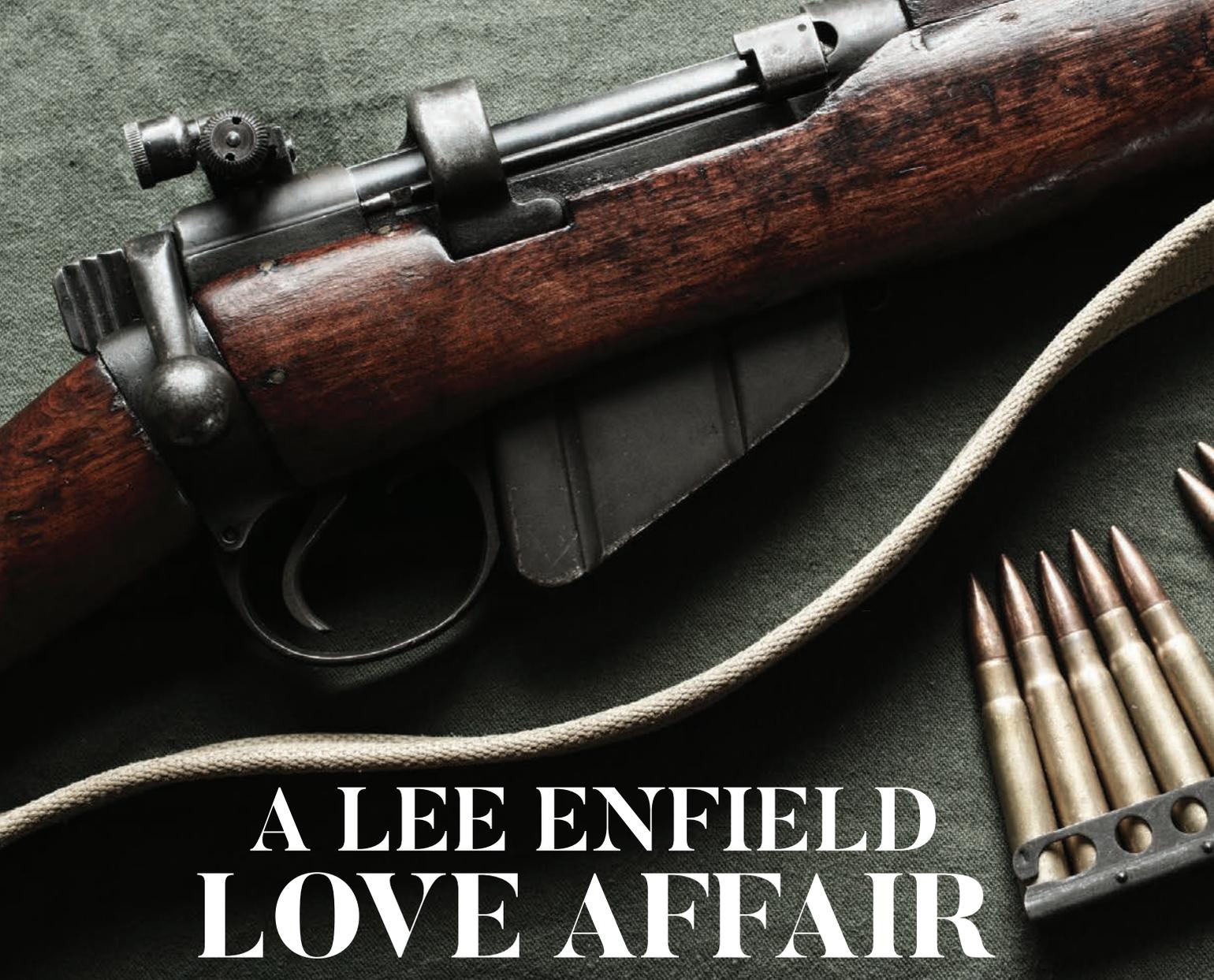
stage called chain-chain-chain involved shooting 150 and 275-metre targets while trying to find some rifle support from a chain suspended in a wooden frame.

Shooting the same 150-metre spinner used in the morning from construction pylons was a reminder how challenging this really could be. I figured the correct holdover for these targets on the last two shots during the morning and was confident going in. I wasn't sure if it was the wobbly pylons or the wind, but this wasn't the walk in the park I figured it would be. The final stage involved shooting boar targets from 125 to 200 metres from two levels on a roof-type structure.

Throughout the day, each hit generally resulted in one point.

At the end of the day, the top three scores in Open, Production and Youth were recognized with medals. Prizes were awarded from a draw amongst participants. Shooters who are regular participants have their scores accumulated through the year and can participate in a year-end event.

Throughout the event, I saw people of varying skills and different equipment levels having a lot of fun as they tried the different challenges of CPRS. I proved to myself I can hit a target at 300 yards with a 22 LR and it isn't crazy. 🎯



A LEE ENFIELD LOVE AFFAIR

The evolution of a gun collection

BY DON MACLEAN

"The best infantry rifle ever built." Raymond Gregory doesn't mince words when I ask him for his opinion on Lee Enfield rifles and their place in history. After spending several hours at his home in Pictou, NS, I share his opinion of this fine rifle. Raymond has a 60-year love affair with the Lee Enfield rifle and, from what I saw, it isn't about to end soon.

I first met Raymond over 10 years ago when I had the opportunity to visit him and have a look at his gun collection. At that time, Raymond had 75 Lee Enfield rifles displayed on his "wall of guns," as he called it. I was anxious to get an update on his collection and what he was up to, so I arrived at his house on a hot August morning.

THE COLLECTING JOURNEY

Growing up in Nova Scotia, I became familiar with Lee Enfields and the 303 British cartridge early in life. In most of Atlantic Canada, the term 303 British or Lee Enfield generally mean the same thing to most people. As Raymond explained to me on my first visit, the 303 British calibre has a long and illustrious history. It had its beginnings back in the late 1880s as a black powder cartridge before transforming to cordite and then smokeless powder. It served as the standard British, and Commonwealth, military cartridge from the 1890s up until the 1950s. During that time, it is estimated approximately 15 million Lee Enfield rifles chambered for the 303 British were built, and there's a good chance quite a few of them are still in

service somewhere in the world.

Raymond had cautioned me before I arrived that he had downsized his collection since my first visit, so I wasn't too surprised to see that the wall of guns had been replaced by military memorabilia. However, I gained some comfort in seeing that two Lee Enfields, an Mk III and a No. 4 Mk I were still prominently displayed. I was curious why Raymond had downsized his collection.

"Well, my wife passed away and my son and daughter weren't interested in the guns. I had an offer from someone who wanted to purchase the entire collection in one piece, so I took advantage of it."

I asked him if it had been difficult to part with the guns. "Definitely, I spent 60 years putting that collection together,



Raymond Gregory and his "wall of guns" back in the day.

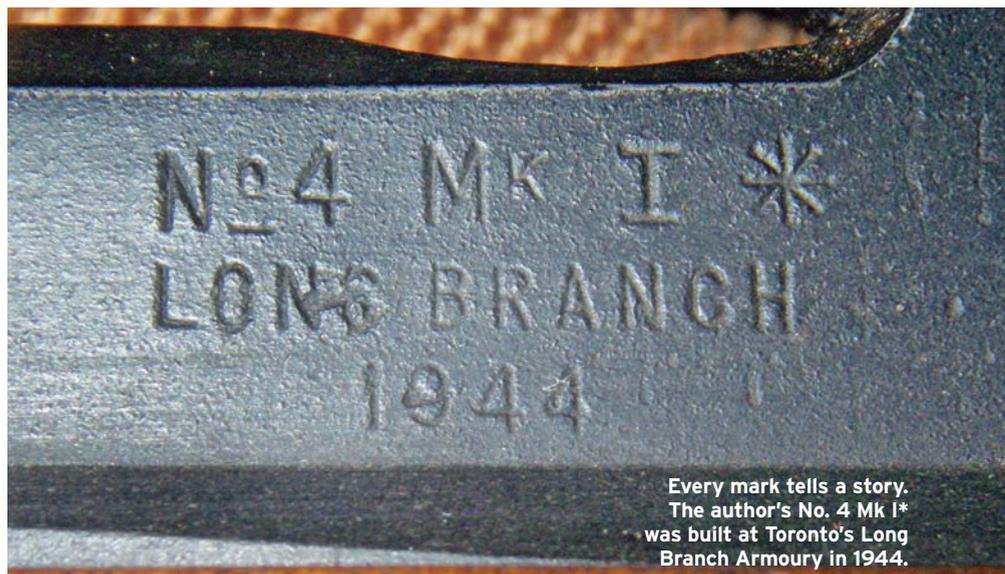


Raymond and his No. 4 Mk I sniper rifle.

but things change. I enjoyed those guns for many years and now someone else will be able to enjoy them," he replied.

I thought back to our first meeting when I asked him what sparked his interest in Lee Enfield rifles. "Well, I would have to say that it goes back to when I was a young boy. When we attended Remembrance Day ceremonies, the First World War veterans marched with their rifles in the parade. They were Lee Enfield Mk IIIs, the Long Lee, and I was fascinated by those guns."

Raymond remembered admiring the Lee Enfield rifles sold in the Eaton's catalogue. "They sold for \$11, but I didn't have any money back then," he laughed. His first Lee Enfield had to wait until he started working. "I bought my first one back around 1960. I ordered it from



Every mark tells a story. The author's No. 4 Mk I* was built at Toronto's Long Branch Armoury in 1944.



Raymond demonstrates the correct technique for breaking the firing pin on an Mk III Lee Enfield.



War reenactors try to get every last detail correct, right down to the proper Lee Enfield out on the battle grounds.

the S.I.R. catalogue, a No.1 Mk III* and I remember paying \$39.95 for it. That was the first one."

I spent several hours with Raymond talking about Lee Enfields, as well as the other guns and military memorabilia in his current collection, but I could have spent a week. Every rifle has a story related to its history or some aspect of its manufacture, and it's usually a fascinating one.

Raymond's Mk III has all the bells and whistles, many which I was not familiar with, but he explained their use. "This is the volley sight," he explained, as he elevated the sights which are located on the side of the stock. "They elevate the gun to approximately a 45-degree angle, with the idea being to send a rain of steel down on the enemy up to two miles away. With the advent of trench warfare, the value of the volley sight declined, so the No. 4 Mk I wasn't equipped with it."

Raymond also explained the use of the stacking swivel located near the muzzle of the rifle. "In camp, they would stack their guns together in a pyramid at night to keep them out of the mud."

The assortment of bayonets used on Lee Enfields is as fascinating as the rifles themselves. Raymond showed me how the original long bayonet for the Mk III had been shortened over the years. Raymond's Mk III is equipped with an original bayonet, an impressive 17 inches of steel. "They discovered that you could do just as much damage to vital organs with a shorter bayonet, so the No. 4 Mk I was equipped with a spike bayonet which was six or seven inches long."

One feature which intrigued me was the small hole bored in the receiver of the Mk III. "That was designed to break the firing pin," Raymond told me, and he proceeded to remove the bolt and unscrew the end to reveal the firing pin. "You placed the pin in the hole and gave it a downward snap to break it. That ensured the enemy couldn't use your rifle."

"A trained infantryman could get 25 aimed shots off in one minute with an Mk III," he said. I was curious to know how that was done, so he told me. "They used five-shot charger clips in ammunition belts which held 25 clips, for a total of 50 rounds and they could fill that 10-shot magazine very quickly."

Raymond's Mk III is equipped with a magazine cutoff which could convert it to a single shot. "That feature was discontinued in later models," he told me.



Lee Enfield rifles were the standard-issue firearms for many Canadian soldiers. Pictured, this statue shows a soldier holding his trusty Lee Enfield.

MY LEE ENFIELD

On my first visit, Raymond educated me on the clues required to decipher the markings found on Lee Enfields, including my Lee Enfield, a gun which has a special place in my collection. As the standard-issue infantry rifle, Lee Enfield rifles were built throughout the world, but mine was made in Canada. After the Second World War, thousands of Lee Enfields came on the market and were eagerly purchased by hunters, and therefore I'm sure the 303 British has accounted for more big game in eastern Canada in the last 50 years than any other calibre.

My rifle is a sporterized model, which my brother and I bought in the late 1960s at Canadian Tire for the grand sum of \$40. It was our first centrefire rifle and we figured that we had it made. Before that, our deer hunting weapon was Dad's single-shot 12-gauge Cooley loaded with a rifled slug. That was his only gun and he used it on everything from rabbits and grouse to deer. While Dad never had a problem harvesting his deer with the Cooley, my brother and I considered ourselves severely under-gunned when we were in the woods. The Lee Enfield was equipped with a sliding rear peep site and I harvested my first deer using that rifle. Since that time, I have added a scope and the gun has accounted for a few

Nova Scotia whitetail bucks. Commercial 303 British ammunition loaded with 150 and 180-grain bullets remains widely available throughout eastern Canada. My favourite is a 150-grain load which generates muzzle velocities of approximately 2,600 feet per second, making it suitable for most medium-sized game.

The information Raymond provided also added to my own connection to this fine rifle. The markings on my No. 4 Mk I*, for example, shows that it was made by the Long Branch Armoury in Toronto in 1944. However, a closer examination, with Raymond as my guide, revealed that the safety lever on my rifle was stamped with a broad arrow, an indication it had been made for a British gun and probably replaced later.

I spent some time admiring the rest of Raymond's collection, including his photographs of military history related to the town and County of Pictou. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of soldiers from Pictou County and their role in both wars. I asked Raymond where his interest came from. "I was never interested in just hanging a gun on the wall. I wanted to know the history of the guns as well as the people who used them." Raymond's collection follows the evolution of military-issued firearms from the Mk III and No. 4 Mk I up to the FN C1 chambered in 7.62 NATO. I had

never seen an FN C1, so Raymond took it down for a closer look. "It was in use from 1955 until 1985 and was the first semi-automatic used by the Canadian military."

SELLER'S REMORSE?

As someone who has "only" 14 firearms in his gun case, and thoughts of downsizing soon, I was curious how Raymond felt about parting with his Lee Enfields. I asked him if he had experienced any seller's remorse after parting with his collection.

"Just one gun haunts me," he replied with a laugh. "The Lee Enfield sniper rifle I had was mint and I have the occasional moment of regret." I remembered my first visit when I asked him if he had a favourite Lee Enfield in his collection. With some pride he showed me his No. 4 Mk I (T) sniper rifle. It was complete, with every serial number, from the scope to the magazine, matching and he also had the original case. "But I am keeping my eyes open for another one, so, you never know. I may have one on the wall again."

My time with Raymond passed quickly and I left his home with a renewed appreciation for the Lee Enfield rifle and the important role it played in world history. I also thought that this is one 60-year love affair which is as strong as ever. 



JUNK SCIENCE

American gun violence haunts the gun-control debate in Canada

BY GARY MAUSER

Canadian media like to use horror stories about mass shootings, such as the recent shootings in Texas, to delegitimize citizen firearms ownership. Public health activists particularly delight in titillating the Canadian public with fake studies that portray guns as too dangerous for civilians. Typically, these studies are based on shoddy research methods, cherry-picked data sets, and topped off with exaggerated claims about the findings. Thanks to anti-gun billionaires, a near-continuous flow of pseudo-scientific studies making the same errors appear in the supine Canadian media again and again; each time being trumpeted as “new.”

It’s often difficult to know how to evaluate these claims. News reports seldom include links to the original study; and even when they do, the study is often hidden behind a pay wall so the methodology cannot be known unless the inquisitive reader is willing to pay \$100 USD, or more. This leaves Canadians vulnerable to inflammatory headlines. Debunking these studies takes time and when criticism is finally published, it does not command the same media attention.

Here are a few tips for criticizing these studies: How are the key terms defined?

Is this a cross-sectional study or a time-series? What is the evidence for the conclusion?

DEFINITIONS

Dig down until you find definitions for the key terms. A “shooting” is not the same as a “gun murder.” A “school shooting” may mean a security guard had an accidental firearm discharge on school property, not a suicidal attack by a berserker who killed a number of students. “Gun deaths” do not mean murders. In Canada “gun deaths” are typically 75 per cent suicides and 20 per cent homicides and two per cent firearms accidents. (The remaining three per cent is a mix).

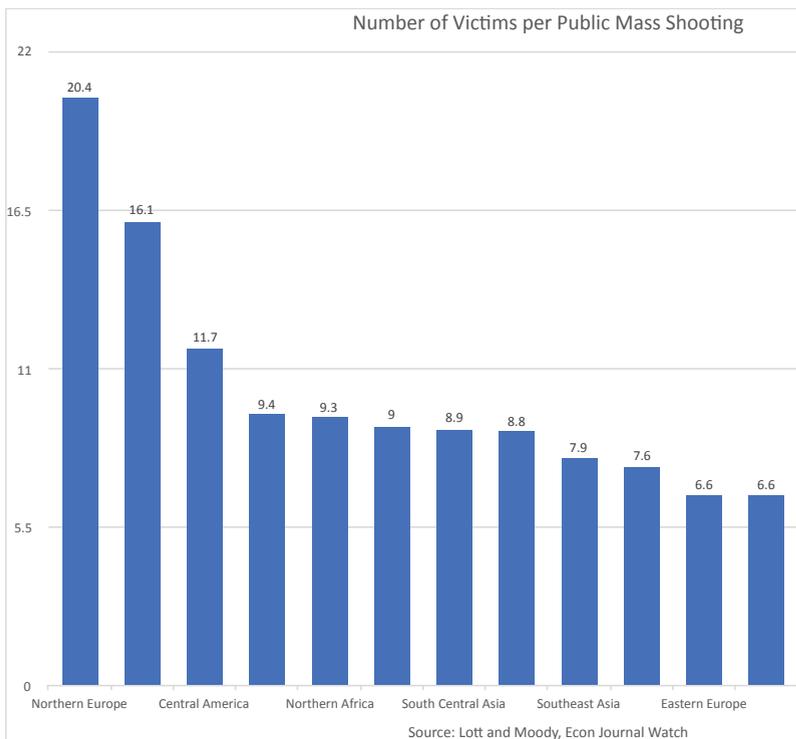
The word “linked” is not the same as “caused.” It’s just a tricky way to say we can’t show causality, but we will imply it without proof. CBC flogged one recent study that claimed they had found the number of “people getting shot” had increased after a well-publicized school shooting. Of course, they claimed that this “increase” was “linked” to the surge in gun sales after the shooting. Unfortunately, both CBC and the article were vague about definitions. When I found the original study, I discovered that the authors used the phrase “people getting shot” to exaggerate the count by delib-

erately confusing assaults with firearm accidents. As well, focusing on the number of people getting shot allowed the authors to duck the key question of whether the rate of firearms injuries per 100,000 gun owners increased, or just the raw count. It’s not a real increase if the rate stays the same (usually around one per cent in both Canada and the US) even though the number of firearms accidents increase along with the number of gun owners.

The headline implies that more guns causes more injuries, but the study doesn’t show that. The “link” is an invention of the analyst.

It is necessary to wade through the buzz words to find out what is claimed to cause what, and how the authors tortured the data. One study I found in a public health magazine that was widely publicized claimed to have found that higher levels of gun ownership in a state were causally linked with higher rates of gun-suicide. Even if true, this ducks the “substitution” question, does increased availability of guns cause total suicide rates to increase.

An even worse mistake was lurking. Digging into the definitions of these terms, I discovered the author had used gun-suicide rate as a proxy for gun



Canadian media like to use horror stories about mass shootings, such as the recent shootings in Texas, to delegitimize citizen firearms ownership.

ownership rates. No wonder there was a correlation or “link.” The study had simply found that gun-suicide rates were highly correlated with gun-suicide rates. Another bogus anti-gun study used to confuse the public.

THE LANKFORD STUDY

Unsurprisingly, the Canadian media have picked up on the bogus Lankford study to bolster their continuing effort to demonize civilian firearms ownership. In his cross-national study of 171 countries, Lankford claims that, “The global distribution of public mass shooters appears partially attributable to cross-national differences in firearms availability...” Shockingly, Lankford still refuses to release his data or to fully explain his definitions.

Lankford’s key claim is, “Despite having less than five per cent of the global population, it (the United States) had 31 per cent of global public mass shooters,” which he attributes to widespread gun ownership. Of course, cross-national studies can’t determine causality. There simply are too many differences between countries to know which differences are important.

To debunk this claim, it is necessary to dig into the definitions of key terms. However, Lankford’s study only became partially available years after his claims were first reported by the media. When information became available, two key problems were found with the Lankford study. First, his definition of “public mass shooter” differs from the standard one in

that he excludes any shooting that is related to terrorism, and second, his global survey is highly selective, excluding 95 per cent of public mass shooters.

Virtually no official counts of “public mass shootings” exclude terrorism-related events. However, international authorities do exclude any deaths due to insurgency, state actors or lack of intentionality. According to Lott and Moody: The agreed upon definition of public mass shootings includes shootings where the shooters’ actions did not appear to be related to another criminal act (whether domestic, drug, or gang related), and that result in killing four or more people.

Including murders related to acts of terror makes a huge difference. By excluding such shootings, Lankford drastically reduces the number of public mass shooters outside the United States. Examining fewer years than Lankford (1998 to 2012 versus 1996 to 2012), Lott and Moody found 45 shooters in the US, compared with at least 10,699 shooters outside the United States. The US has under one per cent of the world’s mass public shooters, even though it accounts for almost five per cent of the world’s population. Another bogus study finally discredited.

SUMMING UP

Don’t fall for headlines. Dig into claims to uncover the definitions. Do your research. Don’t rely upon Google searches. Google is biased towards left-leaning sources. Don’t be satisfied with finding

one source that backs you up. Be sure to check out a variety of independent or libertarian sources such as thegunblog.ca, justiceforgunowners.ca, nfa.ca, crimeresearch.org, or drgo.us. Once informed of the facts, don’t be shy about going public. Don’t be content to share your gripes with like-minded friends at the range or on Facebook. Be sure to write letters to the editors of your local newspapers. Complain to ombudspersons. 🚩

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THE 12,000 ROUND YEAR

Because there is no substitute for live fire

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER



Speed, accuracy and reliability win 3-gun events. This past competition season, Logan Martin, a 3-gunner from northern Alberta, burned through 12,000 rounds of ammunition with the goal of improving his speed and accuracy for each of the 3-gun competition platforms: pistol, shotgun and rifle. Going into the 2019 season, Martin focused on two things: hitting the major competitions and shooting his pistol more than ever to improve his handgun performance.

HIGH VOLUME LIVE FIRE

Martin estimates he sent 2,000 shotshells, 3,000 rifle and 7,000 pistol rounds downrange. That volume of ammunition makes shooters search for value-priced rounds while maintaining competition-grade accuracy. Martin shoots Frontier branded ammunition in his rifle and Hornady ammunition in his Glock 17. He runs low-cost, high-velocity shotshells to ensure proper cycling in the shotgun, and that additional velocity helps knock down targets. However, this past season Martin focused more on his pistol, partly to improve his pistol skills and partly to get comfortable with a new Glock.

"One thing I focused on this season is hitting all the major matches. These are a lot of fun, you get to meet and shoot with a lot of new people, and usually the matches are where the heavier competition is. I definitely put most of my time and effort into preparing for these matches, so I could show up ready to rock," said Martin.

Speed, accuracy and equipment-reliability win matches. Considering 3-gun events see competition with pistol, shotgun and rifle platforms, it pushes competitors to master each platform. Each of these guns require unique skills to operate effectively.

"The other thing, on a personal side, is my pistol shooting – that's a weakness most 3-gunners have in their game. It was definitely my weakest of the three guns. I put a lot of time on the pistol this year, more than I have ever shot. I needed to do this anyway, to get used to a new gun. I certainly stepped up my pistol game substantially from how I shot a handgun last year."

Martin shoots 115-grain Hornady American Gunner XTP. Those 7,000 rounds of live fire pistol shooting were all about improving his pistol speed and accuracy.

“There’s a lot of hype about dry-fire,” he told me. “And don’t get me wrong, dry fire is an incredible tool, especially since not everyone has the time or the money to shoot a lot of live ammunition. But there is no substitute for live fire. Having support from Hornady this year definitely is a huge factor in me getting to shoot as much as I did.” Dry fire will always be part of a shooter’s training, but there’s no feedback as honest and indisputable as holes in a paper target.

“Hands on the gun, knowing what it feels like when it is recoiling, holds you more accountable than dry fire, simply because you’ve got to be very honest with yourself during dry-fire. When you’re mashing the trigger, you don’t know how fast you’re going to pull it during recoil. I definitely learned that live fire is important because I’ve shot more than I ever have this year.”

EQUIPMENT

Logan is a top competitor in 3-gun competition, and his performance on and off the range has attracted corporate sponsorship, which helps defray some of the costs of shooting. Sponsorship allows him some sweet hardware upgrades. Here is a summary of what he shoots, platform, optics and ammunition.

Pistol: Martin’s new pistol, as of 2019, is a full custom Glock 17 build done by the crew at Black Box Customs. It’s equipped with a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro for the Open division in 3-gun. Switching to the Glock required retraining because the Glock grip has a significantly different angle than Martin’s previous pistol. The lighter 115-grain Hornady American Gunner XTP ammunition required fiddling with the springs in the gun. Martin landed on an 11-pound spring, down from 15 pounds, and reports the reduced slide velocity makes it easier to get back on target because of less muzzle dip when the slide returns to battery. He is satisfied with the switch in gun and springs.

Rifle: “My rifle is a full custom build done by Black Leaf Industries and is chambered in 223 Wylde with a wicked Cerakote job by Black Box Customs. The main components of the build, aside from the Black Leaf receiver set, are all from my other sponsors, such as Proof Research for the carbon fibre-wrapped



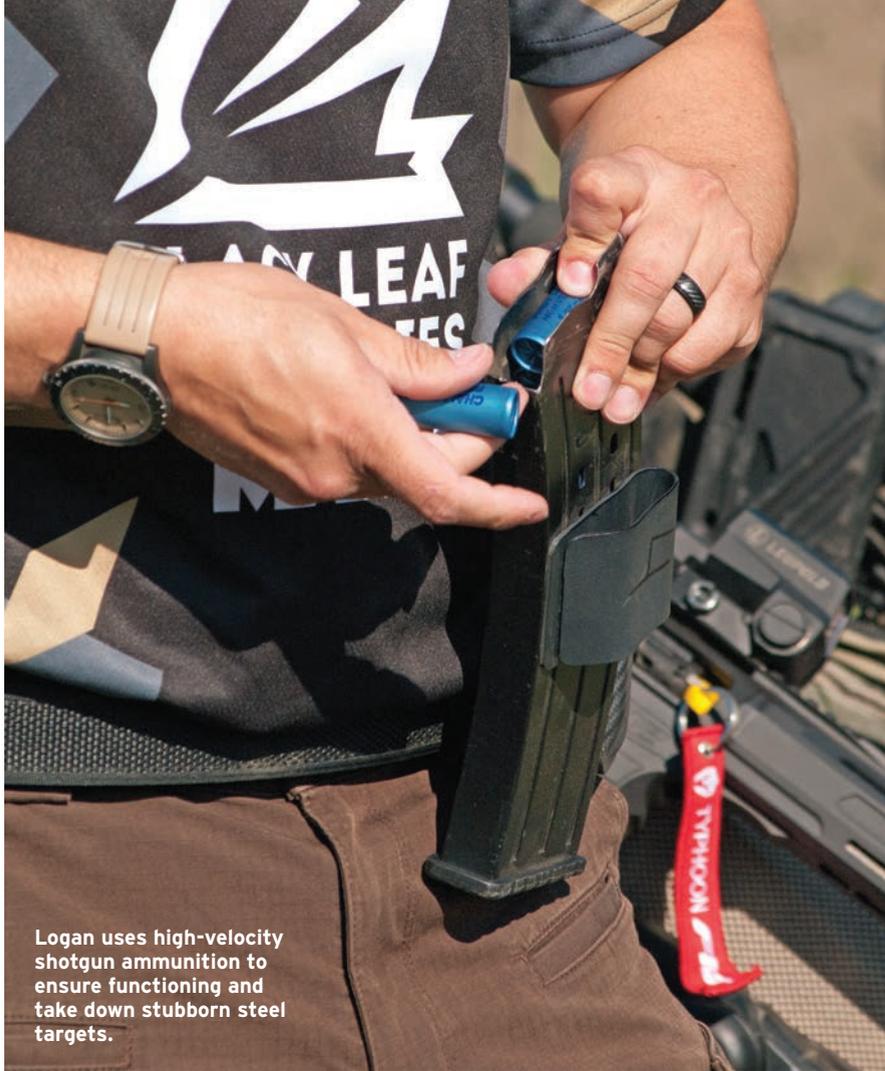
There is no substitute for the accountability of live fire.



Logan runs Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP ammunition in his Glock 9mm.



The friendly but fierce competition of 3-gun is one reason it’s such a fast-growing gun sport.



Logan uses high-velocity shotgun ammunition to ensure functioning and take down stubborn steel targets.



FRONTIER AMMUNITION

Hornady's roots are in bullet manufacturing. When Joyce Hornady founded the company 70 years ago, he had a simple idea and an elegant solution. The glut of surplus .30-calibre ammunition available following the Second World War wasn't suitable for hunting. So, Hornady gambled that his 150-grain spire point would fill the demand handloaders had for reliable .30-calibre hunting bullets. The second year of operation, sales tripled and Hornady was off and running.

Hornady originally formed Frontier Ammunition in 1964, using surplus military brass loaded to factory specifications with Hornady bullets. What the company learned from this project helped with the subsequent creation of Hornady Ammunition. After which, Frontier quietly disappeared from the market.

Then, in 2018, Hornady resurrected the Frontier brand based on the concept of high-quality Hornady bullets loaded in military brass. The result is value-priced ammunition in 223 Remington, 5.56 NATO and 300 Blackout in a wide array of bullet weights and types. Frontier Ammunition is loaded with Hornady bullets at Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Missouri, a major producer of military spec cartridges.

Frontier rifle ammunition comes in a regular 20-cartridge pack and in bulk packages of 150, 500, 1,000, 2,000 and even a Hornady-red barrel packed with 13,889 rounds. Frontier ammunition competes on price and quality and is a perfect choice for high-volume shooters like 3-gunners.

barrel, Leupold for the VX-6HD Multi-gun 1-6 scope and DeltaPoint Pro offset red dot, and Odin Works for most of the furniture and internals," said Martin.

"I'm running 55-grain full metal jacket ammunition from Frontier Ammunition, which I think is one of the most cost-effective and accurate rounds available. I run that for 95 per cent of my shooting, for the rest I use the 68-grain boat tail hollow point match from Frontier. It's essential for my long-range stuff, especially in the wind. Just having a little heavier projectile helps. It's basically my long-range precision ammunition when I really need it. The point of impact difference between the 55-grain FMJ and the 68-grain BTHP at 200 yards is right around one inch."

Shotgun: Martin's shotgun is a Typhoon F12 chambered in 12-gauge with a Leupold LCO (Leupold Carbine Optic) on top. Lots of tuning, polishing and internal tweaks have been done to help make it run more reliably. He chooses high-velocity shotshells and has found both Challenger and Score shotshells function well in his Typhoon.

3-GUN FUN

It's flat-out impressive to see skilled 3-gunners work a competition course of fire with three different firearms. The physical demands of moving between, under, over and around obstacles and barriers while changing mags, switching platforms, acquiring targets and keeping everything critically safe is intense. The competition is friendly but fierce, and it's clear why 3-gun is such a fast-growing gun sport. Shooters like Martin are a big part of that growth. It'll be interesting to see what next season holds for him, and the sport in general. 🏆



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YOUNG GUNS

Canada's junior shooting champs

BY ERIC R. PREVOST

Beep – bang-bang! Beep – bang-bang!

Ryan Dobbs repeats this rhythm over and over under the watchful eye of his dad as he practices for his next big match. Ryan is an IPSC Grand Master Class shooter, and the rapid draws and shots from his holster are critical to shaving seconds off his time. Over the past three years, Ryan has progressed from a young teenager, to a more mature teenager who is dominating the IPSC stage in Ontario. In fact, until a few months ago, his parents were not only his coach and manager, but also his only mode of transportation to matches. You see, Ryan finally just became old enough to get his driver's license.

At the age of 17, Ryan has accomplished, in a few short years, what many twice his age have taken decades to achieve. His classification as a Grand Master has placed him within an elite group of world-class shooters. Ryan has

numerous local and regional competition results under his belt, including provincial and national championship wins.

"Every win just makes me want to train harder. There is nothing better than beating more than 180 shooters, most of them older than I am," said Ryan during a recent interview.

Ryan's story is not unique to Canadian shooting clubs and associations. Young Canadian shooters proudly displaying the red maple leaf on their jerseys are staples at national and international shooting events. However, these youth don't get the same front-page attention as the local junior hockey star, and they likely don't get the attention and support they probably should from the shooting community.

But that doesn't bother youth shooters like Mary Patrick. Mary is a competitive rifle shooter, with an Olympic podium in her sights. "Shooting is a sport that

demands the skills I already had as a student," comments Mary. It's a sentiment that most competitive youth shooters share.

Matthew Van Haaren is another up-and-coming young shooter, but his firearm of choice is a shotgun. He started shooting at the age of nine and progressed to win three straight gold medals in junior trap at the Canadian Championships from 2016 to 2018. As a result, he's been representing Canada internationally since 2016, placing a career-best 36th at the 2018 World Junior Championships.

Shooters like Mary, Ryan and Mathew are focused, driven and have an attention for detail that most would envy. What's most impressive is their drive to not only succeed, but also to dominate their respective disciplines. In a world where most teenagers demand instant justification from social media, and constant likes by their Instagram and Twitter



CANADA



CANADIAN
TRAPSHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

How many shooting organizations work at publicizing their stars, or even their events?

followers, shooters like Mary, Ryan and Matthew could care less about fame. They labour day in and day out for their own personal gratification.

Mary's achievements include regional, provincial and international wins in a variety of rifle events, including air rifle, small bore and large bore divisions. Her travels, like Ryan and Matthew, have taken her across Canada and to the far corners of the world. Their competitive

experience and travels are something that most athletes could only dream of.

While their international travel and elbow-rubbing with the shooting sport elite has offered much excitement, their path to excellence has not been so glamorous. All three of the shooters featured in this article don't come from shooting families. While Mary's introduction to her sport came through her time in Army Cadets, Ryan came into the sport by chance. "My

dad and I were sitting around the table one night and started talking about pistols. We thought it would be a fun thing to try," explained Ryan.

More so than most Canadian athletes, youth shooters struggle with significant entry barriers to the shooting sports. Access to certified coaches, world-class equipment and training facilities comparable to US and European shooting centres are almost nonexistent. In addition, Canadian firearms laws, and the social stigma surrounding shooting sports, have a chilling effect on the sport's acceptance.

Through her resourcefulness, Mary can access some part-time coaching, and communicates through email with her coaches. However, she finds it difficult to access the instant feedback she needs during her training sessions. For Ryan, training has meant trips to Florida to train with world champion Frank Garcia, or training sessions with his always supportive parents. Always supportive, because without Dad at every practice session and competition, Ryan could not even hold a pistol. And there's the other challenge for all our youth shooters, Canadian firearms laws.

Shooting sports are practiced by youth of all ages all over the world. In fact, there are a variety of world-class programs offered by several American groups and agencies including 4H, the American Legion, NRA and the Amateur Trapshooting Association. All these organizations support and fund major youth shooting sports programs. While they do not specifically or individually advertise the total number of members or provide statistics relative to how many youths participate in these programs, the individual participation rate in regional and national matches is nothing to laugh



Canada's young shooters compete for themselves, not the notoriety.

at, often exceeding the thousand competitor mark.

While US shooting sports programs offer world-class entrance opportunities and training, the Canadian youth shooting sports scene is a bit bleaker. Thankfully, there are some small regional and local programs that encourage youth to participate in shooting sports; however, they relate mostly to airgun programs and are often limited to family and friends of local shooting clubs. The Canadian Army Cadets does support shooting sports disciplines for their youth cadets, and local clubs do what they can to support shooting activities for youth with their available volunteers. While support for youth shooting exists, it dwarfs the efforts and sponsorship present south of the border.

In fact, head over to many of the firearm or shooting sports associations websites and Facebook pages and you will be lucky to find any news about the most recent shooting sports events or results, and even luckier to see news about a youth sports shooter. A singular post, or sport shooting update is often buried beneath hundreds of political and position statements about firearms rights. While lobbying for legal firearms ownership is an important part of our public advocacy, likely as important is also highlighting our bright shooting sport future.

Pick up your local newspaper and the sports section, and most weeks there is usually a highlight from the last junior hockey team win, or baseball championship. Our local media are always ready to hang around community arenas and high schools looking to feature the next 16-year-old hockey phenom or basketball legend. I can't remember the last time I read an article about Matthew, Ryan or Mary in mainstream media outlets.

But thankfully for the shooting community, none of that bothers our youth shooters. They compete for themselves, not the notoriety. "Those hockey guys celebrate the fact that their team of 20 or so players beat three or four other teams in a tournament, I beat over a hundred other competitors on my own," commented Ryan.

"It just called to me," explained Mary.

These shooters don't care about glamour or the attention of mainstream media, they are just happy to compete, and show the world that Canada is a quiet, world-class, shooting sports success. 🇨🇦



The hard work involved in a young rifle shooter's path to excellence is not glamorous.



More so than most Canadian athletes, youth shooters struggle with significant entry barriers to the shooting sports.



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Shipping A Firearm

It appears to be illegal for an individual to ship a firearm through a carrier other than Canada Post.
Il semble être illégal pour un particulier d'expédier une arme à feu via un transporteur autre que Postes Canada.



A recent incident I was involved in served as inspiration for this column.

Over the years, I have purchased and sold my fair share of used firearms online. In August 2019, I purchased a used rifle from an individual who lives in another province. One day, I came home and found a cardboard box sitting on my front porch. Canada Post had delivered it a few hours before and left it on the porch, in plain sight, as nobody was home. It is unclear whether Canada Post botched the delivery, or whether the seller had not bothered to spend \$2 to ask for a signature acknowledgement upon delivery.

Luckily, nobody stole the rifle. However, had the rifle gone missing, a lot of legal trouble could have ensued for both me and the seller of the rifle. As to the latter, he might have ended up facing criminal charges if, indeed, he did not follow the legal requirements for mailing a firearm. Here is why.

THE RULES

As is the case with just about everything in relation with firearms, their shipping is highly regulated. There are two sets of rules that must be complied with: the first set of rules can be found in

the regulations¹ enacted pursuant to the *Firearms Act* (the Transportation Regulations). The second set of rules can be found in the Canada Post non-mailable matter regulations² (the CP Regulations) and in the Canada Post policies.

In essence, the Transportation Regulations provide for the following:

1. A firearm may only be mailed within Canada.
2. The firearm must be posted using the most secure means of transmission by post that is offered by the Canada Post Corporation, that includes the requirement to obtain a signature on delivery³.

Hence, shipping a firearm to a foreign address is strictly prohibited⁴. Further, it appears to be illegal for an individual to ship a firearm through a carrier other than Canada Post.

The CP Regulations and Canada Post policies provide for further requirements.

1. No ammunition may be included in the package, since ammunition is considered as dangerous goods.
2. A secure locking device must be attached to the firearm.
3. The firearm must be locked in a sturdy, non-transparent container;

and

4. If the firearm is fully automatic, the bolt must be removed.
5. Finally, firearms cannot be shipped via air and cannot have any markings on the outside of the packaging.

The Canada Post policies are certainly not a model of clarity. Although the policies do not expressly say so, I take it that item 2 means that the firearms must be rendered inoperable by way of a secure locking device. Please note that item 3 does not say that the container must be locked, but only that the firearm must be locked in the container. Hence, a trigger lock or other secure locking device is arguably (but not necessarily) sufficient to "lock the firearm in the container." But it could be otherwise! There is no reported legal precedent on point. In order to be on the safe side, the container should, at a minimum, be taped in order to prevent accidental or unauthorized access to its content. A properly taped, non-transparent, cardboard shipping box is arguably an adequate container. The prohibition against shipping via air means that only regular parcel service may be used. Finally, the markings requirement is likely a reference to the

fact there must be no indication, on the package itself, that it contains a firearm.

THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES

Mere failure to comply with the Canada Post policies will likely result in Canada Post refusing to accept the package or holding up its delivery. On the other hand, failure to abide by either the Transportation Regulations, or the CP Regulations can lead to criminal prosecution. Prosecution is most likely to occur if the package is either damaged or goes missing, as this will trigger an investigation.

In the situation that I experienced and described at the outset, I was lucky enough that the package was not stolen. Had that happened, I would have had to promptly report the loss or theft of the firearm to the police. Failure to do so on my part would have been a criminal offence⁵.

Upon such a report, the police would have investigated, and potentially found out that the seller had omitted to require a signature acknowledgement, if that was indeed the case. In the latter case, the roughly \$2 savings achieved

by the seller by foregoing the signature acknowledgement could have arguably resulted in charges of “illegal transfer of a firearm” under Section 101 of the *Criminal Code*. The infraction is defined as follows:

“**101 (1)** Every person commits an offence who transfers a prohibited firearm, a restricted firearm, a non-restricted firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device, any ammunition or any prohibited ammunition to any person otherwise than under the authority of the *Firearms Act* or any other act of parliament or any regulations made under an act of parliament.”

Indeed, the definition of “transfer,” found in Section 84 of the *Criminal Code*, is as follows:

“**Transfer** means sell, provide, barter, give, lend, rent, send, transport, ship, distribute, or deliver.”

In the instant case, mailing is included in “ship”, and the only manner in which a firearm may be mailed is by requesting a signature acknowledgement. Hence, a mailing done without requesting such an

acknowledgement is made in a manner that is not authorized by regulations enacted under an act of parliament. Again, this is a bit of a grey area, since there is no reported precedent on point.

A conviction under Section 101 of the *Criminal Code* results in a criminal record, unless the perpetrator is granted a discharge. Further, such a conviction would automatically trigger a review of the seller’s firearms licence, and its likely revocation under Sections 5 and 70 of the *Firearms Act*. That would be a heavy price to pay for a \$2 savings.

Do yourselves a favour: when you mail a firearm, know and follow the rules.

REFERENCES

¹Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations, SOR/98-209

²SOR/90-10

³Supra, note 1, at s. 16(c)

⁴Id, at s. 16(b)

⁵S. 105(1) a) of the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985 chapter C-46



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Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Expédier Une Arme À Feu, Ou Comment Une Économie De Quelques Dollars Pourrait Ultimement Vous Coûter Très Cher!



Un incident récent, auquel je fus partie malgré moi, m'a incité à écrire la présente chronique.

Au fil des ans, j'ai acheté et vendu un certain nombre d'armes à feu, via Internet. En août 2019, j'ai acheté une carabine usagée d'un individu résidant dans une autre province. Un jour, alors que je revenais à la maison, j'ai trouvé une boîte sur le perron de ma maison. Postes Canada avait livré la carabine quelques heures auparavant, et l'avait laissée là, à la vue de tous, parce que j'étais absent de chez moi. Je ne sais pas si c'est Postes Canada qui a fait une erreur, ou si l'expéditeur (vendeur) avait simplement omis de d'exiger une signature lors de la livraison.

Heureusement, la carabine n'a pas été volée. Eut-ce été le cas, des difficultés légales considérables auraient pu s'ensuivre, pour moi, mais surtout pour l'expéditeur. En effet, si ce dernier avait omis d'exiger une signature lors de la livraison, il aurait pu faire face à des accusations criminelles. Permettez-moi d'expliquer.

LES RÈGLES APPLICABLES

Comme c'est le cas avec à peu près

tout ce qui touche aux armes à feu, leur expédition est hautement réglementée. Il existe deux classes de règles devant être observées. La première se retrouve dans les règlements¹ adoptée en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu (le « Règlement sur le Transport »). La seconde est une combinaison des règlements adoptés en vertu de la Loi sur Postes Canada², et des politiques internes de Postes Canada.

Le Règlement sur le transport prévoit ce qui suit :

1. Une arme à feu ne peut-être expédiée par la poste qu'à l'intérieur du Canada³; et
2. L'arme à feu est postée selon le moyen de transmission postale le plus sûr qui soit offert par la Société canadienne des postes, lequel prévoit qu'une signature doit être obtenue à la livraison⁴.

Ainsi, une arme à feu ne peut être expédiée par la poste en dehors du Canada. Il semble également qu'il soit illégal, pour un individu, d'expédier une arme à feu par un service de livraison autre que Postes Canada.

Les Règlements postaux et les politiques de Postes Canada prévoient

ce qui suit :

1. Aucune munition ne peut-être incluse avec l'arme à feu, puisque les munitions sont considérées comme des biens dangereux, et que leur expédition postale est prohibée.
2. Deuxièmement, un dispositif de verrouillage sécuritaire doit être « fixé » sur l'arme à feu ;
3. L'arme à feu doit être verrouillée dans un contenant solide et opaque ; et
4. S'il s'agit d'une arme automatique, le verrou ou la glissière doit en être retiré (si possible).

Ces politiques ne sont certainement pas un modèle de clarté. Même si les politiques ne le disent pas expressément, il appert que l'item #2 signifie que l'arme à feu doit être rendue inopérante au moyen d'un dispositif de verrouillage sécuritaire. Quant à l'item #3, il ne dit pas que le contenant doit être verrouillé, mais que l'arme à feu doit être verrouillée dans le contenant. On pourrait argumenter qu'une barrure de pontet suffit pour verrouiller l'arme à feu dans le contenant. Mais il pourrait en être autrement. Il n'existe pas de précédent judiciaire sur la question. Afin d'éviter des risques inutiles, il est conseillé, à tout le moins, d'apposer suffisamment de ruban adhésif de bonne qualité pour prévenir toute ouverture accidentelle ou non-autorisée du contenant. Une boîte de carton solide, opaque et sécurisée par une généreuse dose de ruban adhésif est vraisemblablement un contenant satisfaisant aux exigences de Postes Canada.

LES CONSÉQUENCES POTENTIELLES

Le simple fait de ne pas se conformer aux politiques de Postes Canada entraînera soit un refus d'acceptation du colis, soit un refus de livraison. Par ailleurs, une contravention des règlements susmentionnés peut entraîner des poursuites criminelles. La probabilité de poursuite est maximisée dans l'éventualité ou un incident survient, comme par exemple la perte

du colis, ou le fait que son contenu soit endommagé. Dans un tel cas, une enquête sera vraisemblablement déclenchée.

Dans le cas de l'incident mentionné précédemment, j'ai eu la chance que le colis ne soit pas volé ou perdu. Si cela s'était produit, j'aurais dû rapporter le vol ou la perte avec diligence aux autorités policières. Agir autrement aurait constitué une infraction criminelle⁵.

Suite à un tel rapport, les autorités policières auraient vraisemblablement initié une enquête et auraient potentiellement découvert que l'expéditeur avait fait défaut d'exiger une signature lors de la livraison. Si cela s'était avéré, les deux dollars épargnés par l'expéditeur lui auraient mérité des accusations criminelles pour cession illégale d'une arme à feu, en vertu de l'article 101 du Code criminel. Cette infraction est définie comme suit :

CESSION ILLÉGALE

101 (1) Commet une infraction quiconque cède une arme à feu prohibée, une arme à feu à autorisation restreinte, une arme à feu sans

restriction, une arme prohibée, une arme à autorisation restreinte, un dispositif prohibé, des munitions ou des munitions prohibées à une personne sans y être autorisé en vertu de la *Loi sur les armes à feu*, de toute autre loi fédérale ou de leurs règlements.

Dans le cas qui nous occupe, une « cession » inclut le fait d'expédier une arme à feu par la poste, puisque la définition de cession se lit comme suit : « **cession** Vente, fourniture, échange, don, prêt, envoi, location, transport, expédition, distribution ou livraison. (*transfer*)⁶»

Or, la seule façon dont le Règlement sur le transport susmentionné autorise l'envoi et la livraison postale d'une arme à feu est avec une signature du destinataire. Conséquemment, une expédition postale faite sans exiger une telle signature constitue vraisemblablement une « cession effectuée de façon non autorisée par un règlement adopté en vertu d'une loi fédérale ». Encore une fois, il n'existe pas de précédent connu.

Une condamnation en vertu de l'article 101 du Code criminel entraîne un dossier judiciaire, à

moins que le contrevenant n'obtienne une absolution. Qui plus est, une telle condamnation entraîne presque automatiquement une révision du permis d'armes à feu du contrevenant et, la plupart du temps, une révocation de celui-ci en vertu des articles 5 et 70 du Code criminel. Ce serait là un très cher prix à payer pour avoir voulu économiser deux dollars.

La prochaine fois que vous posterez une arme à feu, faites-vous une faveur à vous-mêmes : connaissez et suivez les règles ! Autrement, il pourrait vous en coûter beaucoup plus que deux dollars. 

REFERENCES

¹Règlement sur l'entreposage, l'exposition, le transport et le maniement des armes à feu par des particuliers (DORS/98-209), article 16

²Règlement sur les objets inadmissibles, DORS/90-10

³Supra, note 1, Article 16 (b)

⁴Supra, note 1, Article 16(c)

⁵Article 105 du Code criminel

⁶Article 84 du Code criminel



NOTICE OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE OF DIRECTORS – *Fall 2019*

The NFA is pleased to announce that the 2019 fall election for directors is now completed. We would like to congratulate the new board of directors who shall take office immediately. The elected by acclamation are:

British Columbia - Yukon

Blair Hagen serving a 2 year term
Sheldon Clare serving a 1 year term

Alberta – NWT & International

Dwayne Gorniak serving a 2 year term
Jerrold Lundgard serving a 1 year term

Saskatchewan

Vacant at this time.

Manitoba – Nunavut

Vacant at this time.

Ontario

Rick Igerich serving a 2 year term
Jordan Vandenhoff serving a 1 year term

Quebec

Charles Cote serving a 2 year term
Joseph Esteves serving a 1 year term

Maritimes/Newfoundland & Labrador

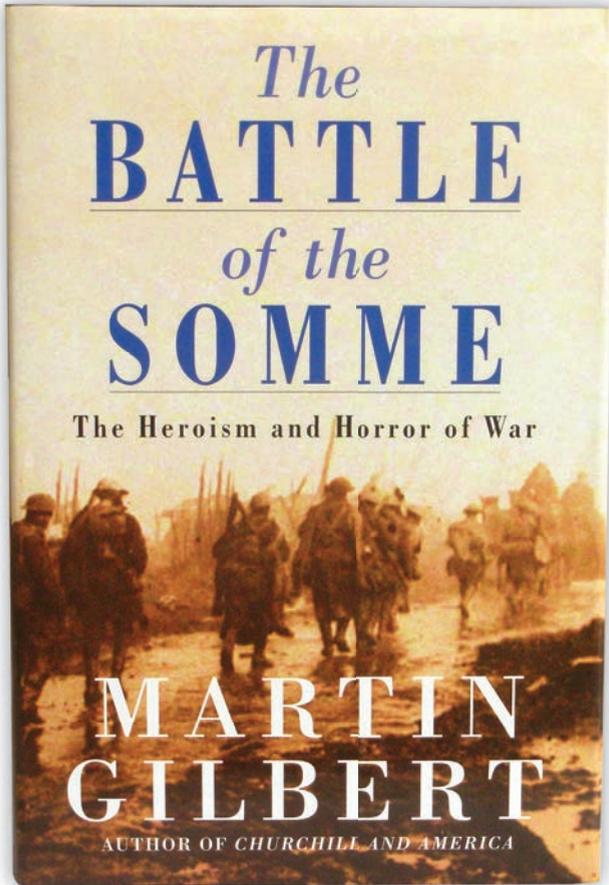
Robert Bracken serving a 1 year term

Welcome to the NFA team!

NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

The Battle Of The Somme



The Battle of the Somme took place in France between July 1, 1916, and Nov. 15, 1916. The entire battlefield measured just 15 miles long and six miles wide at its deepest point. Over 310,000 soldiers (164,055 German and 146,404 Allied) were killed fighting for this narrow strip of land in 138 dreadful days.

Author Martin Gilbert, well known for his Churchill biography, has written over 70 books. In *The Battle of the Somme*, he answers questions which haunted both survivors of the battle and relatives of those killed, including: What happened on the battlefield? Why was the battle fought in the first place? Why was it so prolonged at such heavy cost? What was its impact on the wider war?

Scanning the book's 50 photos prior to reading the text is thought provoking. Weapons of war were changing, as machine guns became widespread, efficient killers. Fifteen-inch howitzers fired projectiles capable of destroying trenches and spreading instant death. In September 1916, the long-awaited British Mark I tank first appeared on the battlefield. During the same month, aircraft dropped bombs on German troop concentrations, railway yards and supply dumps. Yet the British cavalry proudly rode horses towards battle and soldiers carrying rifles with bayonets charged toward enemy trenches.

The Battle of the Somme contains graphic details, many from personal accounts, soldier's letters, military records, wartime memorials and media of the day. Horrific battles are described, as are the deaths of many soldiers who sacrificed their lives believing The Great War would end all wars.

On the first morning of the battle, the 810-man First Battalion, Newfoundland Regiment, formed part of the second wave of attackers. Bravely they clambered out of the trenches, over the dead of the first wave, setting out to cross 750 yards of exposed front. They faced heavy, deadly accurate German machine gunfire from the opposing hillside. A few managed to reach their own barbed wire only to

be shot dead still holding wire cutters. Some advanced and tossed hand-held bombs into the German trenches. When the attack was over, 310 Newfoundlanders were dead and more than 350 wounded. During the next four-and-a-half months, there would be many similar attacks by both Allied and German forces. Ground along the battle front would be gained or lost as soldiers fought and died in horrific conditions.

Quotes such as the following will leave a lasting impression: "It must have been awful for boys of 18 or 19, knowing they faced almost certain death from the enemy if they went forward and just as certain death from their own side if they went back." Over 60 soldiers, including Canadian John Higgins, were executed for desertion or cowardice during the Battle of the Somme.

Gilbert has provided those studying the Battle of the Somme with a textbook-quality publication. It contains an excellent bibliography, index and 33 maps which will be welcomed by those who wish to study this historic battle.

The Battle of the Somme is the most authoritative account ever published on this controversial campaign. It will cause you to ponder the initial four questions and encourage you to ask even more. The soft cover edition is currently available online for \$23. 

Title: The Battle Of The Somme – The Heroism And Horror Of War

Author: Martin Gilbert

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