

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

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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

It may be winter, but that doesn't stop Canadian gun owners from exercising their firearms. Indoor ranges are busy at this time of year and predator hunters are in the field helping farmers and ranchers keep their livestock safe. However, outdoor ranges are far from deserted, as shooters put their guns and themselves to the test in less than ideal conditions. For 3-gun competitors, it's particularly challenging as they need to keep multiple firearms running in cold, ice and snow. While the weather tests the gear, it also tests the shooter's ability to manipulate reloads when fingers turn numb and to stay mentally focused on the course of fire instead of the conditions. It's a different world on the range in January. 🏹



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

2020 Around the World

As with all the content in this issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*, this is being written in 2019, but you'll be reading it in 2020. Politically, 2020 will be an interesting year for gun owners here in Canada and in other free nations. In Canada, Bill C-71 may be in effect by year's end, and if Trudeau is able to keep his promises, we'll see the start of the legislative process to have all AR-15s, and likely all semi-auto centrefires, confiscated and destroyed.

That action would follow New Zealand's lead, something our prime minister seems to think is a good thing. And speaking of New Zealand, by the time you read this that country's "amnesty" period for owning a semi-automatic centrefire with a detachable magazine will have expired and we'll have some idea of the compliance rate for surrendering those firearms. Right now, it looks abysmally low, even from

legal gun owners. An enterprising reporter recently interviewed some gang leaders in New Zealand, asking them if they would turn in their guns. Of course, the answer was a resounding, "No!" So, only the law-abiding will be disarmed. Nothing new there.

In the latter part of 2020, we'll also see an American presidential election. And if a Democrat wins the Whitehouse, there will likely be an attempt at further gun control legislation in that country. If that happens, I'm going to predict our American gun-owning friends will start hoarding again, with the result that ammunition and handloading components will be in short supply on our side of the border. We've seen it before. You've been warned.

So, while we wait for all this drama to play out, let's go shooting! And we've got some good content in this issue to help you do that. Jeff Helsdon takes us on a journey into the history of Kent

Cartridge. That's a name all waterfowlers are familiar with, but not everyone is aware of the company's Canadian roots. It's another example of Canada's innovative firearms industry.

Winter is a great time to handload ammunition and to tinker with guns, so we have those topics covered. Tom Tabor discusses how to improve rifle handloads, while Lowell Strauss takes us on an excursion into the world of handloading the 410 Bore shotshell. Of course, you'll need to clean those guns after shooting them, so Dean Roxby reviews some of the cleaning tools offered by Real Avid. Also, be sure to read Ed Osborne's letter to his far-in-the-future grandchild. Ed doesn't even have children yet, let alone grandchildren, but he's already built a gun for him/her. His letter goes deep and is worth sharing with others. The *CFJ* may be your magazine, but don't hoard it, share it.





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Three Avenues Of Approach

The NFA has been vigorous in fighting against further unnecessary and ineffective firearms legislation. We had our Executive Director Charles Zach present in Toronto to present our views in opposition to the emotional and ignorant municipal gun control arguments. Our haters continue to blame firearms owners for the actions of criminal society – it's completely unacceptable.

I have heard some questioning why the NFA hasn't stopped firearms legislation like Bill C-71, and perhaps impending additional legislation. The answer is that NFA doesn't get to stop legislation – voters and political parties do, and there will very likely be an election within two years, so the work on that starts now. The NFA and you have been successful in preventing some very bad ideas from becoming legislation, but there is only one way to prevent a majority in Parliament from passing bad legislation. You either make sure that majority loses power – ideally replaced with a different and friendly majority, or by taking away our opponents' majority status. Well, we certainly helped get rid of the Liberal majority and some of their more troublesome MPs. The problem is that there are other parties who may tend to agree with the new Liberal minority in their hatred of both us and our property. We need to work to make sure these other parties understand the risks of voting in favour of anti-gun bills.

So, stopping legislation depends on the ballot box. It depends on advocacy for legislative and political change. Short of open revolt, which isn't a serious option, there aren't a lot of other choices.

In effect, we have three avenues of approach: first, relationship building,

which helps with lobbying and education. We do this work through presentations targeting foolish gun control initiatives both at home at all three levels of government and internationally at the UN.

Local efforts need to confront municipal challenges to firearms rights. Please be aware of what your local city council is doing. The same applies to provinces. Be wary of governments wanting to opt in to operating the firearms control system. That merely creates inconsistency and increases the number of targets. Ask your provincial politicians if they are prepared to be called every time there is heavy-handed enforcement of the firearms laws – federal law should

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have federal responsibility.

We go to the UN because we need to be either challenging anti-gun Canadian government positions or supporting any helpful initiatives of Canadian governments. Our presence at the UN and our partnerships on international bodies is critical in defending our domestic situation – they are strongly linked.

Second, legal action, mainly admin-

istrative or criminal. Legal action is only possible when grounds and laws are clearly in violation of basic rights and principles, or other legal considerations. Legal action because we don't agree we are doomed to fail. This isn't the US, and class-action suits are likewise a fantasy. Best chances are always with a perfect client and clear bad faith or poor behaviour on the part of the government, or its representatives. Challenging legislation in court depends on live cases, usually with a person who is the recipient of a problem because of bad law. Civil suits about general claims of libel against gun owners are a complete waste of time, as they expend resources and are not successful.

The third thing is electoral action, and that is an ongoing process. The electoral approach has worked for us several times, once we got organized in the 1990s. You could ask Kim Campbell, Bob Goodale, Robert Nault and several others about that. Affecting government legislation is the only reason to do lobbying, court action or anything else. If we can't win at the ballot box, nothing else we do matters. And to be frank, we won at the ballot box this last election. Not as much as we would like, but we did make a huge contribution to the result. A minority government is precarious, and we helped do that.

We expend NFA resources in lobbying, advocacy or legal action. We did the big walks and rallies in the 1990s, but they had no effect on political attitudes. They made some of us think we were making a difference, but we didn't change any minds. The efforts we are taking now are very much helping. Again, all our efforts depend on your support. Without you, none of what we do is possible. 

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Trois stratégies

L'ACAF a menée une lutte vigoureuse contre l'instauration de nouvelles lois inefficaces et inutiles en regard des armes à feu. Notre Directeur Exécutif Charles Zach a récemment fait une présentation devant le conseil de ville de Toronto pour opposer des propositions émotives et ignorantes sur le contrôle des armes. Ceux qui nous haïssent continuent de nous blâmer pour les gestes commis par des criminels - c'est totalement inacceptable.

J'entend certaines personnes qui se demandent pourquoi l'ACAF n'a pas bloqué le Projet de loi C-71 et d'autres qui semblent en cours d'adoption. La réponse est que l'ACAF n'a pas ce pouvoir - les électeurs et les partis politiques l'ont et il y aura sûrement des élections d'ici deux ans, nous devons donc commencer notre travail immédiatement. Ensemble nous avons réussi à empêcher de très mauvaises idées à devenir des lois, mais il n'y a qu'une seule manière de prévenir qu'un gouvernement majoritaire passe de mauvaises lois. C'est en s'assurant d'élire un nouveau gouvernement majoritaire favorable à notre cause ou en retirant la majorité à nos adversaires. Cette fois, nous nous sommes débarrassés d'un gouvernement majoritaire hostile ainsi que certains députés inquiétants. Le problème est qu'il y a d'autres partis qui ont les mêmes convictions que le gouvernement minoritaire Libéral. Ils nous haïssent autant que notre propriété privée. Nous devons travailler pour nous assurer que ces autres partis comprennent le risque qu'ils courent en votant pour des Projets de loi anti-armes.

Donc, le blocage de lois se fait le jour du scrutin. Pour atteindre ce but il faut militer pour des changements à la fois politiques et législatifs. Nonobstant une révolte, qui n'est pas une solution sérieuse, nous n'avons pas beaucoup

d'autres choix.

En effet, trois stratégies s'offrent à nous: La première est de bâtir des relations qui nous aideront avec notre lobbying et l'éducation des politiciens, et du publique en faisant des présentations dénonçant des initiatives ridicules sur le contrôle des armes et ce, devant les trois niveaux de gouvernement Canadien ainsi qu'à l'ONU.

Des initiatives locales doivent être entreprises pour faire face à des projets anti-armes au niveau des municipalités. Je vous en prie, soyez vigilants envers les activités de votre conseil municipal et il va de même envers les gouvernements provinciaux. Soyez méfiants des gouvernements qui veulent participer à un système de contrôle des armes. Ceci ne peut que de créer des systèmes divergents et augmente le nombre de gens qui puissent devenir leurs cible. Demandez à vos députés provinciaux s'ils veulent qu'on les appelle à chaque fois qu'il y a un abus d'une loi sur les armes à feu - une loi fédérale est de compétence fédérale.

Nous nous présentons devant l'ONU car nous devons défier un gouvernement Canadien anti-arme ou bien, en encourager un autre qui pourra être en notre faveur. Notre présence à l'ONU et notre affiliation avec des groupes internationaux sont essentiels pour défendre notre situation domestique - ils sont intimement liés.

Deuxièmement: Les poursuites devant les tribunaux - surtout de nature administrative mais parfois de nature criminelle. L'action juridique n'est possible que lorsqu'il y a la violation de principes ou de droits fondamentaux basés sur des lois ou d'autres aspects légaux. Une action juridique basée uniquement sur le fait que nous soyons en désaccord est perdue d'avance. Nous ne sommes pas aux États-Unis et les re-

cours collectifs relèvent aussi pour nous du domaine imaginaire. Nos chances de réussite sont les meilleures lorsque notre client est sans tache et que le gouvernement fait preuve de mauvaise fois ou agit illégalement. Présenter une cause devant les tribunaux dépend de cas réels, habituellement d'une personne qui a été victime d'une mauvaise loi. Les causes civiles telles que libelle diffamatoire envers les propriétaires d'armes à feu, sont une perte de temps et de ressources, vouées à l'échec.

Troisièmement: L'action électorale, qui se fait continuellement, nous a bien servi plusieurs fois depuis que nous nous sommes organisés durant les années 1990. Demandez le à Kim Campbell, Bob Goodale et Robert Nault entre autres, ce qu'ils en pensent. La seule raison pour laquelle nous faisons du lobbying, des poursuites juridiques et autres, c'est pour influencer les lois en notre faveur. Si par contre, nous ne sommes pas vainqueurs le jour du scrutin, nous ne pourrons rien faire. Honnêtement nous avons gagné cette fois, pas autant que nous l'aurions espéré mais notre contribution a beaucoup influencé le résultat. Un gouvernement minoritaire est précaire, nous avons aidé à créer cette situation.

Les ressources de l'ACAF sont dépensées pour le lobbying, pour militer et envers les poursuites juridiques et judiciaires. Nous sommes descendus dans les rues durant les années 1990 mais sans que cela n'ait influencé les attitudes politiques. Certains ont pensé que nous avions fait une différence mais, nous n'avons pas fait changer d'idée ceux qui sont contre nous. Nos trois stratégies actuelles aident beaucoup à notre cause. Nous avons encore besoin de votre appui, sans lequel il serait impossible de faire quoi que ce soit. 



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Predicting The Future

The 2019 federal election is done, and Canada will have a new Parliament. I have received many questions from NFA members and others as to just what the minority Liberal government will do about firearms, especially considering their promises of bans and confiscations. I regret to inform all of you that I have broken my trusty crystal ball. An unfortunate accident, and to be honest the darned thing was only right about half the time anyway. I've been on Amazon for weeks now looking for a new one, but to no avail. If anyone has any leads, feel free to e-mail me.

This unfortunate new minority Parliament reflects the broken and hobbled state that Canada is in after four years of Liberal majority government. Of special concern is the return of the specter of western separatism. The policies, actions, lack of actions and churlish and spiteful culture of the Liberals has reawakened this sleeping giant of an issue that has the potential to seriously affect the culture, economies and future of this nation. It's sad. The west wanted in, got in, and helped elect a fairly reasonable federal government with reasonably effective national policies, only to see them dashed by left wing progressives hell bent on pursuing Fabian socialist agendas at the expense of Canadian rights, freedoms, economies and national sovereignty.

Am I the only one thinking this is like 1980 all over again? I remember my father complaining about another Trudeau government at the time and thinking, "What's the big deal?" Now I know, and I'm sure you do too.

During the election, the Liberals promised gun bans, confiscations, buy backs and giving cities authority to ban guns; an almost full smorgasbord of the crank issues of the civil disarmament

lobby wish lists. But can they or will they actually pass the legislation necessary to implement these?

It's tough to say. What the Liberals would like to do demands comprehensive legislation that would affect the rights and property of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Canadians. There are serious implications in doing that, and it also takes time. Bill C-71 took over two years to write, pass Parliament, move through the Senate, and then receive Royal Assent under a Liberal majority government. Does this government have the time and political will to do this? The jury is still out on that.

We're not talking about a few guns here, as in 50, 100 or even 500. No, this involves thousands of firearms, representing millions of dollars in private property owned by law-abiding Canadians who didn't do anything except comply with what the law demanded of them.

In the cases of short barreled semi-automatic rifles and AR15s, owners are required to hold registrations for that property so the civil disarmament bureaucrats know where it is and who owns it. Last count, there were over 100,000 of those firearms. However, the majority of firearms the Liberals would like to grab are unrestricted and unregistered. They constitute millions of unregistered firearms in the hands of currently law-abiding Canadians.

Bill C-71, now law, speaks to a licensing and registration initiative for owners of once again prohibited Swiss Arms and VZ58 rifles, which is to be completed before 2021. How that even happens with a government considering more gun bans is beyond me.

Would Canadians stand for their hard-earned tax dollars being paid out in a vain attempt to ameliorate property

owners when so many legitimate issues like health care and Canada's military and military veterans go underfunded? My crystal ball may be broken, but my magic 8-ball still works, and it says, "Don't count on it."

Such drastic and unprecedented legislation in Canadian history would require the full attention and debate of Parliament. To use the Canadian restricted and prohibited firearms registry to demand, coerce or threaten a surrender of property in such a cavalier and ideologically motivated fashion will not be stood for. A betrayal of trust and a further offense against citizenship not concealed by the guise or excuse of "public safety."

Canada's National Firearms Association would take drastic action of our own, in partnership with owners, the Canadian firearms industry and other rights and freedoms advocacy groups to challenge such a foolish move. Every firearms license holder who applied for and received a registration for a restricted firearm was granted that registration because there was no reason to deny it based on any perceived threat to public safety. For a government to arbitrarily demand the surrender of property based on ideological agenda, with no statistical evidence or mandate to back it up, defies explanation.

Canada's National Firearms Association will continue to defend the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians without bias or favour while Canada struggles to find its way towards some kind of political and legal sanity and stability. From your town to Ottawa, to the Supreme Court of Canada, whatever it takes, we will not quit until the rights, freedoms, culture and property of Canadians is honoured and respected by politicians and bureaucrats.



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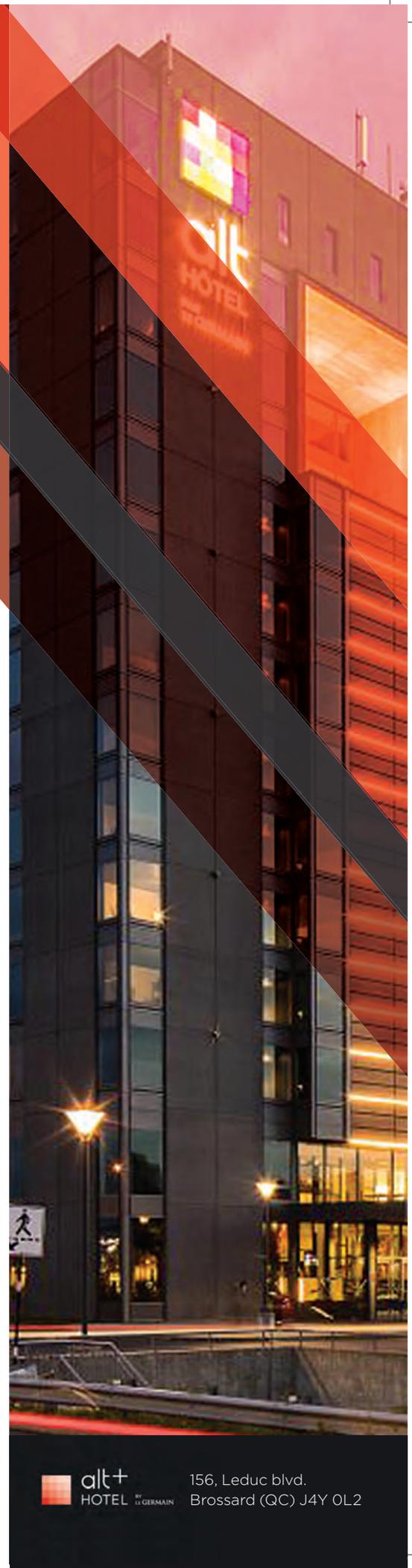
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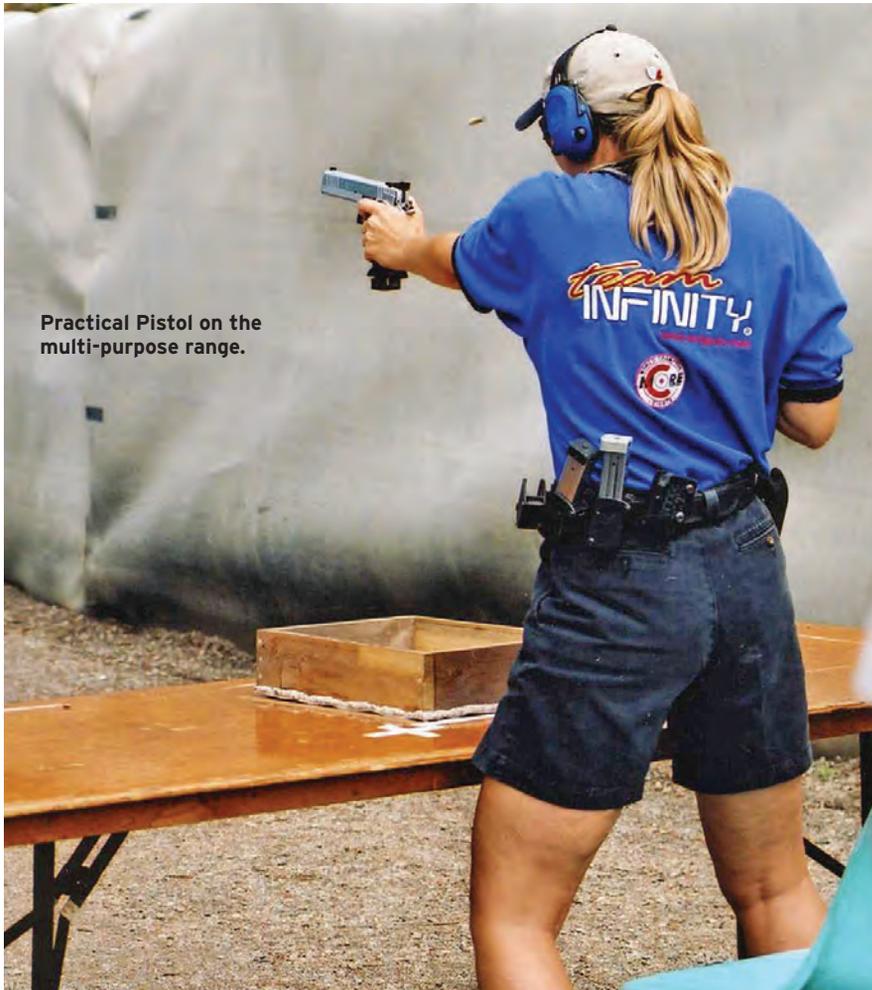
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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Victoria Fish & Game Celebrates 100 Years



Practical Pistol on the multi-purpose range.

The Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association celebrated 100 years of conservation initiatives and shooting sports in 2019. That's a long time, but the story of shooting associations begins even earlier in Canada's history.

Gun clubs and shooting associations in Canada predate the 21st century by 300 years. The tradition of firearm competitions was founded in Europe and the United Kingdom, where beginnings can be traced to the 1500s. These events were contested with bow and arrow, matchlocks and wheellocks. Naturally, the concept of target sports was imported by the early European settlers, where

shooting for sport and competition was an ad hoc affair. Villagers would assemble after church on Sundays and compete to show off their marksmanship skills. Since this era was largely rural, hunting provided much of the fresh meat, and to be a good shot was essential for survival. Frontier shooting matches were also held on special occasions, religious holidays, festive days such as New Years and other celebrations. The targets were crude, often just an X painted on a shingle. The prizes in these typically North American events were turkeys, beef or other food items. The matches were shot either off hand

or from rests at distances of 80 to 100 yards. As the quest for the control of North America heated up between the English and the French, local militias were formed, and regular competitions were scheduled. First Nations and immigrants trained together, various tribes choosing sides with either the English or the French.

In the late 1700s, rifled firearms became popular for competitive events, and as time passed precision guns began to emerge. New innovations such as the invention of the percussion cap, double set triggers, peep style sights and false muzzles for accurate loading of bullets into the barrel made competitions very keen. The newest competition was a shotgun event in the 1820s with live birds released from ground traps. Again, hunting skills were the emphasis.

In the U.K. during 1860s, the National Rifle Association was established for volunteer militias and the promotion of rifle shooting. In Canada, the Nova Scotia Rifle Association was formed in Dartmouth in 1861. The year 1868 saw the establishment of the Dominion Rifle Association in Canada after the Fenian Invasion. These rifle associations rapidly spread across the new provinces. Through the late 1800s, gun clubs proliferated Canada wide, and competitions with handguns became a major focus. In 1905, the Toronto Pistol Club was established. When the First World War intervened, many of the ranges set up by the Dominion Rifle Association were used as training facilities. Then, after hostilities ceased and the veterans returned home, the trend for gun clubs grew rapidly again, with many veterans leading the initiative for firearms training, competitions and conservation programs. They understood that the future of wildlife had to be managed.

This led to related federations and provincial wildlife alliances, the roots of which had been planted in the minds of outdoorsmen during the 1890s. The British Columbia Wildlife Federa-

THE KANGAS ARCHIVE X 3



Clubhouse under construction in August 1984.



Youth target shooting program.

tion being one, with its origins dating back to the late 1890s when volunteer conservationists established a fish and game protective association. In the early days, fish and wildlife management was under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments. The fish and game clubs created a co-operative venture.

The Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association story begins in early 1919 with local southern Vancouver hunters, anglers and shooters, many of whom were First World War veterans. These outdoors people were concerned about conservation, and so their club formation efforts came to fruition on June 16, 1919, when the VF&GPA was incorporated.

Fast forward to the Second World War, when a great many of the VF&GPA membership joined the Pacific Coast Militia Rangers to patrol lower Vancou-

ver Island and the Victoria watershed. The membership had several ranges as time passed, and by 1946 the Association was leasing public lands located on the Goldstream River estuary. The membership developed a shotgun and rimfire rifle range, while the centrefire rifle and handgun shooters had a range in the quarry located at the end of the Esquimalt Lagoon. The construction of their club house at Goldstream was completed in July 1947. This clubhouse became a social centre for hunters, anglers and conservationists.

The Victoria Fish & Game developed close ties with other groups, including the British Columbia Wildlife Federation. During the developing years of gun clubs, companies such as Canadian Industries Ltd. assisted clubs by creating shooting and safety programs for them. Handbooks, including titles

such as *How to Organize a Gun Club*, *Rifle and Handgun Range Control and Club Safety Rules* were available to assist clubs.

In 1969, the Victoria Fish & Game members purchased 166 acres of property overlooking Finlayson Arm at the present address of Holker Place on the Malahat. The provincial government reclaimed the leased land and it became Goldstream Park. During 1975, the VF&GPA moved its entire operation to this new property. The far-sighted vision of the executive of that era forged the foundation for a dynamic gun club which, since that time, has purchased adjoining property with facilities for skeet, trap, rifle, pistol, action shooting (including cowboy action), silhouette, youth target shooting, a women's shooting club, plus archery and airsoft.

The club includes individuals who give courses in hunter training, firearms licensing, gun safety, black powder shooting, how to be an outdoor woman and holster training. The club also pursues initiatives for fish conservation and wetland restoration. The facilities include an incredible log clubhouse, professional kitchen, trout pond and camping area. The 100-year celebration was held in mid-June 2019 and featured food, live music, re-enactors with historic displays, firearms advocacy groups and was topped off by a delicious pig roast. This 3,600-member club has a dedicated board of directors and an ambitious core of volunteers preserving our firearms heritage. 

Sources

Victoria Fish & Game Historian, B.C. Wildlife History, Wikipedia, The Washington Post.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Blind Faith, Incompetence & Spin: The Canadian Gun Debate

The recent election highlighted the embarrassing realities of gun control in Canada. Despite decades of controversy, most of our politicians still demonstrate a naive faith in the guns-cause-crime narrative. In the latest election, this was again twisted around to claim legal gun owners caused gun crime because they were the source of the majority of "crime guns." Trudeau was quick to pick up on both these narratives and promised in his acceptance speech to create even more restrictive gun regulations for the law-abiding.

GUNS CAUSE CRIME

The guns-cause-crime narrative rests on three "proofs," with the first being the Weapons Effect Theory. This theory asserts that inanimate objects can control human behaviour by their mere presence. The exact mechanism for this remains elusive. The theory stems from a 1967 experiment by psychologists Leonard Berkowitz and Anthony LePage (published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*) entitled *Weapons as Aggression-Eliciting Stimuli*. Based on an experiment with students at the University of Wisconsin, it attempted to prove a "learned" association between violence and guns was so strong the mere presence of a gun would stimulate those nearby to higher levels of violence. Hence, restricting guns would automatically reduce violence. Unfortunately, the inability of others to replicate the experimental findings and the failure of it in real life (the absence of violence at gun shows) demonstrated the pseudo-science nature of this glib story masquerading as science. This has not stopped anti-gunners and bandwagon-hopping politicians from using a number of creative variations to further their cause.

THE US HOMICIDE RATE AND GUN OWNERSHIP RATE

Another source of the narrative is the claim that because the US has the highest gun ownership rate (the cause) it also has the highest homicide rates (the

effect) of any nation. This relationship (based on statistics from a short list of developed nations) is presented as a universal law governing the relationship between two factors: civilian gun ownership rates and homicide rates. This universal law is "proven" by comparing the US to "similar" countries with low gun ownership and low homicide rates (Japan being a favourite). To better examine this theory, let us expand the restricted list of countries that the anti-gunners compare the US to.

When we stop cherry picking the data, the first revelation is the fact that the US does not have the world's highest homicide rate. We find that some 93 countries have higher homicide rates than the US. The highest, Honduras, has a homicide rate of 90.4 per hundred thousand (all numbers from UN Office of Drugs and Crime, 2012 figures). This is almost 20 times the US rate of 4.7. Some 22 countries have rates four times as high, including Mexico with 21.5. Some 57 countries have rates more than twice as high as the US. The "horrific" US homicide rates start to look a lot different when put into perspective with the rest of the world, where the average homicide rate is 8.6, twice the US rate. The numbers explain why anti-gunners want to limit the comparison to a carefully chosen subset of countries where they get the preferred outcomes. On examination, we find that homicide rates decrease with increases in civilian gun ownership and the country with the highest gun ownership rates (US) has a homicide rate half the world average.

EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE OF MORE EQUALS MORE

The third source has been a number of studies looking at changes in firearms numbers compared to changes in homicide numbers. Most of these suffer because they try to make their case based on small changes that are hard to separate from routine statistical churn and because their findings are vulnerable to manipulation by judicious selection of the start and end dates to predetermine the results. One

example that does not suffer from these problems is the immense increase in American civilian arms from 1994 to 2010. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives used import/export and manufacturing data to determine that over the 16-year period (1994 to 2010) some 93,965,151 firearms were added to American civilian gun stocks. Handguns, a category of particular interest to anti-gunners, increased by 40,681,376. If we consider that at the start of this period, the US had 200 million civilian guns (1994 US Department of Justice estimate) we can see that we are dealing with a massive increase in the gun stocks. During the same period, homicides dropped dramatically (37 per cent), including firearms homicides (36 per cent) and even handgun homicides dropped (47 per cent). Despite the fact this is a relatively recent example and takes place in the US, where much of the information used by the Canadian debate comes from, this has gone completely unnoticed in Canada. One is almost forced to the conclusion that Canadian politicians and the Canadian Press are far more interested in rhetoric than facts. Especially when the facts are exactly the opposite of their preferred narrative.

ASSAULT WEAPONS

Based on the above "proofs" and their favourite talking points, the Liberals have recently launched a major administrative attack (Bill C-71) on the law-abiding, whose guns are least involved in crime. Their next target for confiscation is "assault weapons." The term itself is a measure of how disgracefully the Liberals play politics with public safety and people's lives. Even though this was a central category in a major national opinion poll, it was never defined with any accuracy. Chosen to maximize its political shock appeal, it seems to mean scary "black rifles" or "military-looking rifles," while building the hopes of radicals that it is a code word for all semi-automatic rifles. This is pure perception politics

and the promoting of a solution that only pretends to address the problem. The hard reality is that criminologists have known for years that: "assault weapons" are seldom used in crime; the US "assault weapon" ban failed to have any impact on crime rates, leading to its abandonment; such weapons will always be available to criminals through our porous borders; the increases in shootings and homicides are coming from increases in gangs and gang activity; like other spikes in gang violence in the past, the current increase is directly related to increases in drug use and the spin off economic competition between gangs to control the profits. This puts control efforts on a collision course with millions of dollars in gang profits.

In short, any ban on AR15s or any other "assault rifle" will fall entirely on the law-abiding who are not the problem, and it will have no measurable impact whatsoever on criminals. Such is the state of our gun control debate that this is and remains a

major party plank of most of our political parties.

CONCLUSION

The somber reality of our politics is that our major political parties were perfectly willing to fight the last election on little more than public relations spin. All parties, both in and out of office, have shown precious little interest in obtaining reliable statistics and realistic research on an issue they claim to be of serious national importance. This is a national disgrace and unfortunately all too common in other areas of national importance. This travesty underlines the need to call politicians and demand better evidence. It also emphasizes the fact that political debates in Canada have deteriorated to ideological strutting matches with little regard for evidence or reason. I suspect that we will soon see a mess of half-baked statistics and glib stories coming out of Ottawa supporting more gun control. Unfortunately, this will impact crime. I say unfortunately because it will encourage police

to divert priorities and resources onto the easy target of paperwork crimes and enforcing petty regulations at the expense of public safety. 

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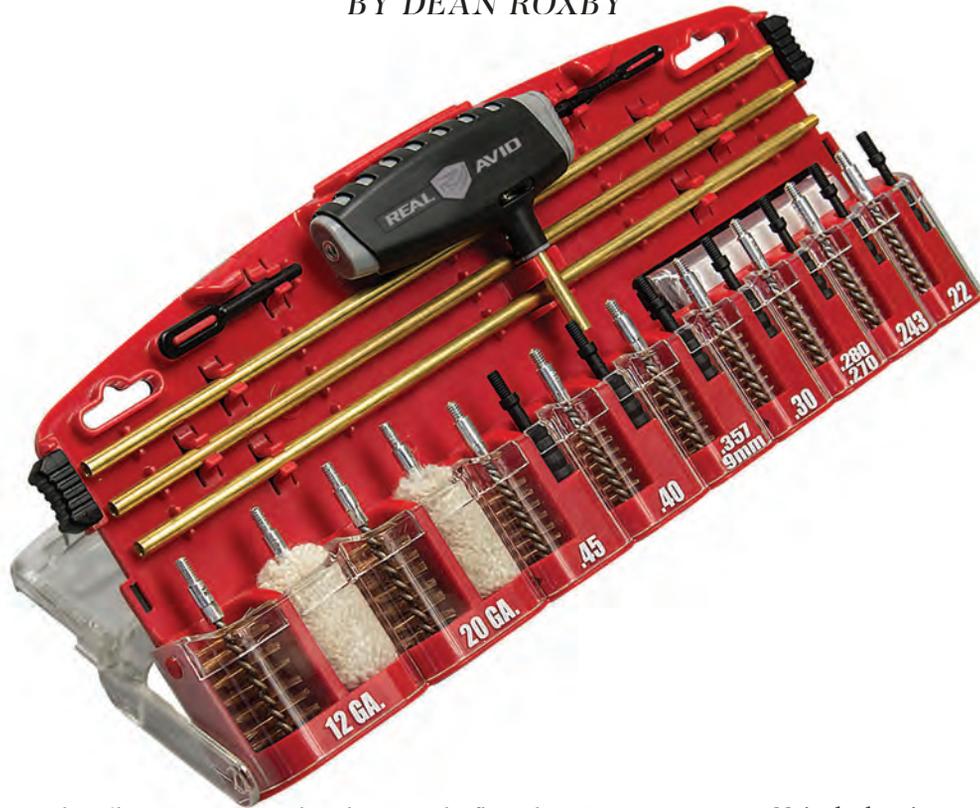
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EASY GUN CARE

Real Avid cleaning kits

BY DEAN ROXBY



If you don't need a mat, the Gun Boss Pro provides all the tools of the Universal kit.

It seems there's a love/hate split when it comes to cleaning firearms. For some of us, cleaning and pampering our guns is another golden opportunity to handle and admire our cherished possessions. For others, cleaning is viewed as a necessary evil, nothing more. Many years ago, I was in the first group. Now I count myself as part of the latter.

Whichever side you take, an organized cleaning kit should be part of your routine. As an old saying goes, "A place for everything, and everything in its place." This describes several well-designed kits from Real Avid.

The top of the Real Avid line is occupied by their Master Cleaning Station kits. These kits come in two versions – one for handguns, and another for both handguns and long guns. The long gun kit is called the Universal. Included are phosphor bronze bore brushes ranging in size from .22 to .45 for

handguns and rifles, plus 12 gauge and 20 gauge. The Handgun kit has a similar layout, but with fewer brushes, jags and no mops. This kit has phosphor bronze brushes and plastic bore patch jags in .22, 9mm, .40 and .45 calibre. The Universal kit adds .243, .270/.280 and .30 calibre brushes and jags to that, as well as the previously mentioned shotgun gauges.

Housed in a durable, hard plastic clamshell, it provides a storage home which will not tear or rot away like cardboard, or crack and crumble the way thin plastic trays do over time. All the brushes and jags are housed individually, so you know at a glance where each item belongs.

Both kits include a sectional cleaning rod with a multi-function T handle. The multi-function refers to the T handle doubling as a non-marring hammer or pin pusher. The Universal has three threaded rod sections that combine to make

a 32-inch cleaning rod, while the Handgun has one 10-inch section.

The most obvious difference between the Universal and the Handgun is the roll out mat attached to each kit. The Handgun mat measures 19 by 16 inches, while the Universal mat is an impressive 43 by 16 inches. These mats tend to stick to your worktable, preventing your gun from skidding around, and they are also oil and solvent resistant. The mats are riveted to the plastic clamshell, so that everything is in one handy package. After use, the mat rolls up and the entire unit slips into a light cloth pouch.

Both kits also include hand-held brushes and picks for dirt and carbon removal. There is a double-ended "toothbrush" with nylon bristles at one end and bronze bristles at the other. Also included is a dental pick-type scraper made of plastic, and two smaller toothbrush-style brushes



Real Avid's Master Cleaning Station for handguns has everything but the chemicals needed to do a thorough cleaning of a handgun. The Universal model, for rifles and shotguns, is similar, but much larger.

with very short bristles meant for carbon removal. These two brushes also have scrapers molded into the other end.

Similar to the Universal kit is the Gun Boss Pro. It could be thought of as the Universal light. The Gun Boss Pro contains the same bore brushes, jags and mops as the Universal, but does not have the roll-out mat or the toothbrushes. It does have the T handle and three-piece cleaning rod, all housed in a similar hard plastic clamshell.

Finally, there is the Bore Boss pull-through. This is a calibre specific cleaning system that combines a steel cable (with a protective plastic coating), a phosphor bronze bore brush and a braided fabric mop, all housed in the handle. As mentioned, this system is calibre specific. There are nearly a dozen different bore sizes available currently, ranging from .17 calibre to 12 gauge.

The hard plastic case of the Bore Boss doubles as the handle for the pull-through. By rolling the flexible rubber cover out of the way, the Bore Boss cable and brush assembly is released. Feed the cable through the barrel, and then connect the tiny ball at the end of the cable to the plastic handle.



Real Avid's rifle mat is easily long enough to accommodate the author's Mini-14.

Simply pull the cable, bore brush and braided mop through the barrel. It will not remove copper or lead fouling, and certainly will not be sufficient for cleaning corrosive primer residue, but this will do a fine job removing loose powder fouling after a day at the range. Also, it would be advantageous to clean gummy oil and accumulated dust from a rifle that hasn't been fired in a long time, as in prior to the start of hunting season. Or even during your hunt, as I can visualize a barrel getting a muzzle

plugged with snow or mud and being able to clean up every last bit of debris from the bore in only a minute. As the entire unit is the size of a hockey puck, and a lot lighter, so it can easily be carried along.

These cleaning kits are well designed, quality products. I have no hesitation in recommending all four items. The website (www.realavid.com) has many more products which I haven't used yet, but I suspect are solid as well. Real Avid products are readily available in Canada. 

BLACK POWDER— WHITE SMOKE

The road to becoming a Sharps shooter
BY LOWELL STRAUSS





A display of the Shiloh Sharps rifle cartridges.

I first laid my eyes on a Shiloh Sharps rifle in the summer of 2011. It was a beautiful July day at the Canadian Shiloh Invitational near Bethune, Sask. Jet-black steel targets – silhouettes of chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams – contrasted with the green prairie grass and sandy backstops. Clouds of smoke wafted across the firing line as competitors fired at the distant targets while their spotters marked hits and misses. Everyone was smiling, and I saw their passion for Black Powder Cartridge Rifle (BPCR) shooting – an infectious enthusiasm that made me want to run out and buy a Sharps rifle. I needed to learn more.

Some shooters wore period costumes, buckskin jackets, vests and cowboy hats, while others sported modern shooting attire. They had flocked in from across North America, and now they were all at the line gunning for a chance to win the grand prize. The competition was stiff. Sharpshooters hurled massive cast bullets from their black powder cartridge rifles at the steel targets – the rams stood at a distant 500 metres. The top shots had an uncanny ability to read the wind as it swept across the prairie grasses. I watched in awe as they had their fun. The prize? Oh yes, it was a Shiloh Sharps rifle, a black powder cartridge rifle, unlike any modern firearm.

Later that same year, on a trip through Montana, I stopped for fuel in the community of Big Timber. And



Historic examples of Shiloh Sharps rifles and cartridges displayed at Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing in Big Timber, MT.

what did I see? Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing! It was a sign (from above!) I needed to schedule a visit to see the making of the famous Shiloh Sharps rifle like those featured in the movies *Quigley Down Under*, *Crossfire Trail* and *Dances with Wolves*.

My factory tour came in 2016, the same year as the company's 40th anniversary. I had the privilege of seeing each step of the building process, from the foundry to the finishing touches, and witnessing the care and attention that goes into each Shiloh Sharps rifle.

Big Timber is a beautiful place to build stunning reproduction rifles. This quiet Montana town of 1,674 people is nestled at the confluence of the Boulder and Yellowstone Rivers. Glistening in the distance are the snowy peaks of the Crazy Mountains and the Absaroka-Beartooth Ranges. It doesn't get much wilder west than this; a place where the prairies meet the mountains.

SHILOH RIFLE MANUFACTURING

The Montana custom rifle builder is a family-owned business established in 1976. They pride themselves on making everything, right down to the screws used to assemble the rifle. Twenty years after they opened, they started their foundry, so all Sharps parts are cast in-house for exceptional quality control.

Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing uses a combination of vintage machines, like their circa-1939 barrel-drilling machine, and state-of-the-art machines, such as CNC mills and lathes. Craftsmen and women hand fit and finish each part, ensuring a perfect fit. Shiloh chambers their rifles for any cartridge in the original Sharps, plus 40-65 WCF and 38-55 Win.

They build two legendary rifle lines. The 1874 line is currently available in nine models, including the Creedmoor Silhouette, Creedmoor Target, Hartford, Long Range Express, Quigley, Montana Roughrider, Saddle Rifle, Sporter #1 and Sporter #3. The 1877 Shiloh English rifles Model #1 and #2 have a wide range of options to choose from. When spending big bucks on these rifles, it's good to know that each rifle is backed by a lifetime warranty to the original owner.

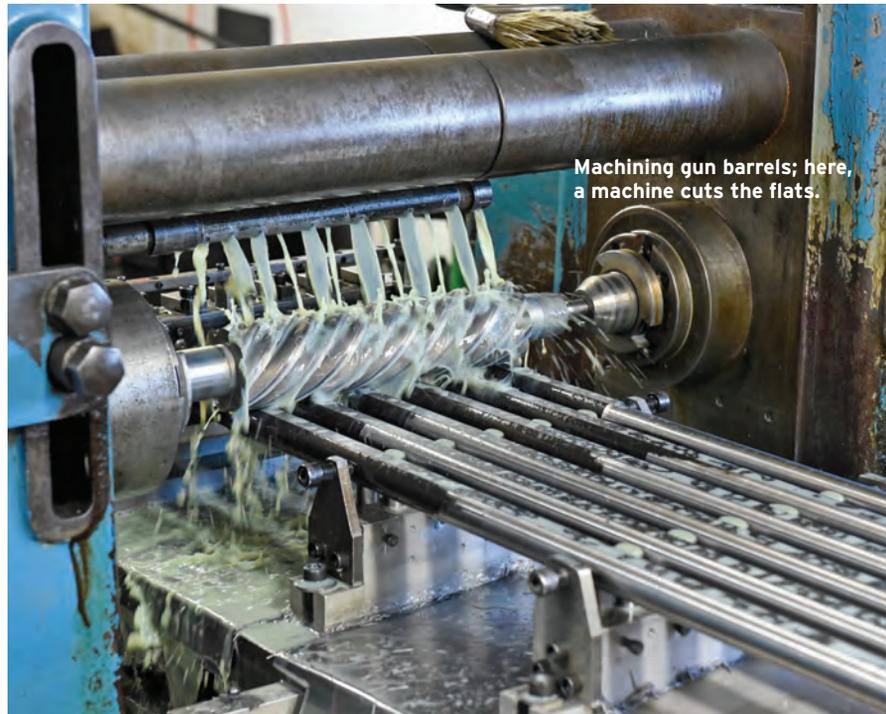
"Shiloh Sharps is proud of what we produce, and we will never sacrifice our quality. We are the only company in the world whose parts interchange with the original Sharps rifles."

LOCK, STOCK & BARREL

My factory tour started in the Boulder



Colour case hardening is one of several gun metal finishes.



Machining gun barrels; here, a machine cuts the flats.

River Foundry. In this building, workers cast Sharps gun parts. The complimentary business started in 1996 to conform to their stringent quality control. It took Shiloh Sharps six months and 5,000 pounds of steel to perfect the investment casting process to their own high standards. Investment casting produces products with exceptional surface qualities, which reduces the time for secondary machining and polishing. Parts are cast out of tough 4140 steel, a low alloy chrome-molybdenum steel, for a long service life.

Each Shiloh Sharps rifle is made to order. The customer chooses a rifle model and style and then selects from a dizzying array of options. Calibre, barrel length and wood grade are obvious options, but so too are barrel length, weight, wood finish, metal finish, bedding, trigger style and more. Much more! Do you want polished screws?

They'll do it. Or perhaps an ebony-inlaid pistol grip. They can do that too. Then it's time to pick sights. Each custom-built Shiloh Sharps rifle is truly a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

After receiving an order, a serial number is assigned to the rifle build. A wood fitter hand selects the chosen wood grade – American black walnut from Lincoln, Missouri – and begins to hand fit each part. Using a variety of hand tools, craftsmen painstakingly file, sand and grind metal and wood for that perfect fit. Another craftsman works on the barrel, selecting the barrel blank appropriate for desired length, weight and calibre.

Suzi Bradley, a talented local artist, hand engraves rifles for customers looking for that little extra to compliment the craftsmanship of their Shiloh Sharps rifle. It adds about two weeks to the build time. You can see a portfolio of her amaz-

ing work at the Shiloh Sharps website.

The final step in building a rifle is applying the metal finish. Colour case hardening with its rainbow of tiger-stripe colours is a standard look, while a Pack Harden finish highlights browns and blues. The French Gray finish gives the rifle a classic look and highlights any engraving.

After metal finishing, rifles are reassembled before final inspection. Every detail is examined with a fine-tooth comb. Once approved, staff phone the customer to tell them the long-awaited good news. Your rifle is ready!

SIGHTS & SCOPES

Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing sells and installs Montana Vintage Arms (MVA) sights and scopes on many of their rifles. Using modern manufacturing processes, MVA creates high-quality, reliable sights that mirror those used 125 years ago, like their Vernier tang sight. Competitors demand sights built within extremely tight tolerances. According to Mike Venturino, in his article titled Rifles for BPCR Silhouette Competition, a mere .01 inches of movement in the rear sight results in a change of the bullet's impact of nearly six inches at 500 metres. A high-quality, tang-mounted, Vernier-style peep sight like those from MVA is a necessity for competition use.

MVA manufactures rugged and dependable vintage scopes, as well. Their

reproduction of the Winchester B series scopes is available in 3X, 4X or 5X, and the MVA 6X scopes range in length from 23 inches to 34 inches! Other than being modern, fully coated optics, they are exact copies of the original scope.

CANADIAN SHILOH SHARPS INVITATIONAL MATCH

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Shiloh Sharps match near Bethune, Sask. Each year one lucky shooter walks away with a new Shiloh Sharps rifle! Most other shooters take home prizes that exceed the value of their entry fee, so it's a win-win for BPCR enthusiasts.

Many of the participants call western Canada, Montana and North Dakota home, while others travel from across North America to attend the annual event. The match is held in early July.

The Canadian BPCR competition uses modified NRA BPCR Silhouette rules. As its name suggests, the Canadian Shiloh Sharps Invitational Match is by invitation, and is hosted on a private range. Leo Bumphrey, the match organizer, caps the event at 64 shooters. If you're interested in shooting at this match, it's best to hit Leo up for an invitation early to avoid disappointment.

The competition is dominated by Sharps 1874 and 1877 rifles chambered in 45-70 Govt. A few shooters opt for versions of the Remington rolling block design or the Winchester 1885 High Wall; nevertheless, they all shoot black powder

cartridges and heavy cast lead bullets.

PARTING THOUGHTS

My fascination with Shiloh Sharps rifles continues to grow. After experiencing the thrill of BPCR competition and seeing firsthand how Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing creates these faithful reproductions, I'm convinced that it's another shooting sport I need to try. There is a bit of sticker shock involved in purchasing a rifle of this quality, so I'm squirreling away some cash to buy one. In the evolution of the target shooter, some folks come full circle – back to black powder cartridges and authentic reproductions – to ramp up the fun.

I'll leave you with a quote from the Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing website: Our company will never outsource anything for cheaper prices. John Ruskin stated, "The bitterness of poor quality lingers long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten." 🏹

RESOURCES

Shiloh Rifle Manufacturing
www.shilohrifle.com
406-932-4266
Leo Bumphrey

Canadian Shiloh Sharps Invitational Match - Bethune, Sask.

Boomer Bullet Moulds
306-551-2621
l.bumphrey@sasktel.net



Shooting silhouettes at the Canadian Shiloh Sharps Invitational Match near Bethune, Sask.



PUMPING IRON

The lies we tell ourselves
BY TIM FOWLER

Lies are curious things, especially lies involving guns. I came to gun ownership at age 38 – what most people would call late. I did shoot tin cans with my father’s bolt-action, open-sighted Cooney down by the river when I was a kid, and I dropped a snow goose or two in the mid-1970s with his full choke single-shot. (That bruise has mostly healed.) School and work quickly occupied my time, followed closely by marriage and mortgage. My focus was growing my family and increasing my ability to prune my mortgage to death. Guns were not on my mind.

Somewhere around my 38th birthday, my hardcore-hunting brother suggested we spend some time developing our brotherly relationship afield. That fall he handed me a 12-gauge pump and we walked up a nice collection of prairie pothole mallards. The following weekend, my brother invited me on a goose hunt over decoys. We collected a near-limit of barley-finished Canadas. A month passed before he handed me his 270 Winchester, also a pump action. After a short demonstration on how to operate it, we set up a paint can at 100 yards. The 130-grain Ballistic Silvertip punched a neat hole through the can somewhere near the middle. I killed a deer the first day out and we enjoyed our time together.

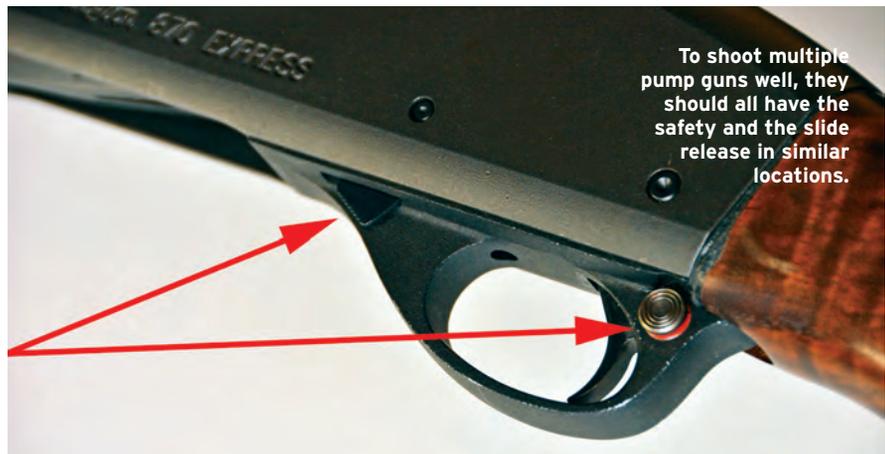
Soon after that, while eating medium-rare whitetail loin, some deep desire unleashed and I decided to take up hunting.

ALL I'LL EVER NEED

Because of my success with pump guns that season, they were a logical choice for the “perfect” Canadian hunting battery: a tube-fed pump 22 LR, a 12-gauge pump shotgun that could handle slugs and everything up to three-and-a-half-inch shot shells and a centrefire pump in 270 Winchester. It was a distinct pleasure for me, waiting at the gun counter of Canadian Tire while the manager rum-



Pump guns can handle a wide range of ammunition, including rimfires, all lengths of shotshells and potent centrefire rifle cartridges



To shoot multiple pump guns well, they should all have the safety and the slide release in similar locations.

maged in the storeroom for my pump guns. He even gave me a deep discount because these guns weren’t moving particularly well, and I was taking three off his hands. We packed them in my station wagon, and I started to dream about hunting.

“These guns will do everything. Three

guns are all I need,” I told my wife, really believing my words. After all, these three guns could kill any game I foresaw myself hunting. The rimfire was perfect for gophers and rabbits; the 270 Win. for coyotes and deer, and the shotgun would handle grouse and geese. Everything I would ever need from a gun was covered >



XS aperture sights on the Remington Model 7600 make fast-moving, close-up targets easy to acquire.

in these three. This was true. But it was a lie. Or, maybe it was just truth ignored willfully. I don't want to specify how many guns I've added to my collection since then, but let's just say I could carefully clean a different gun every week starting New Year's Day and I would still be cleaning when the leaves start to fall.

REMINGTON MODEL 522

This pretty Remington Model 522 remains my favourite .22 rimfire. The high-gloss, real wood stock and blued steel pleases me. Some folks might think the scope on this rifle is

ridiculously high magnification, but I use every bit of the 4-12 scope when shooting long-range gophers over shooting sticks in late summer. That is when you need 10-power binoculars to explore knee-high hay for targets. Every year I train with this rimfire for big game season by shooting hundreds of gophers on the prairie. In winter, it's perfect for stalking rabbits. When I first got the 522, I spent a few hours each week practicing at the range. Shooting the 522 ingrained in my muscle memory the action of pumping the forend to eject a spent case and slam a

fresh round into the chamber. The rifle is accurate and feels like a big game rifle, which is part of its attraction as a trainer for the Model 7600. I especially like the tube-fed magazine that holds 15 Long Rifle rounds. The rifle handles 22 Long and 22 Short too. I can easily shoot a box of 500 22 Long Rifle rounds in an afternoon with none of the blistered thumbs I get from loading spring-loaded magazines five rounds at a time.

REMINGTON MODEL 7600

My Remington Model 7600 is a magazine-fed pump gun. I chose 270 Win-



An advantage of pump-action rifles and shotguns is that in some circumstances they have no pesky magazine capacity restrictions.

chester because back then you could buy cartridges at most roadside general stores and they were always in stock at the gun shops. Yes, 35 Remington and 30-06 Springfield were available too, but the flatter trajectory of the 270 Win. tipped the scales for me. Centrefire pumps are quick handling, well-proven and dearly loved in the eastern woods, but the gun functions equally well in Alberta's boreal forest too. It functions fast and is minute-of-angle accurate. My particular model doesn't have a recoil pad, and I intended to install one but never got around to it. The lack of a pad doesn't bother me now. I've killed coyotes, deer and antelope with this rifle. After running a 3-9X scope for 10 years, I removed it and replaced it with an XS open sight. The 7600 is now my camp and black bear gun. I handload 160-grain Nosler Partitions, perfect black bear medicine.

REMINGTON MODEL 870 EXPRESS SUPER MAGNUM

The Remington 870 Express Super Magnum 12-gauge pump accepts two-and-three-quarter-inch, three-inch and three-and-a-half-inch shotshells.

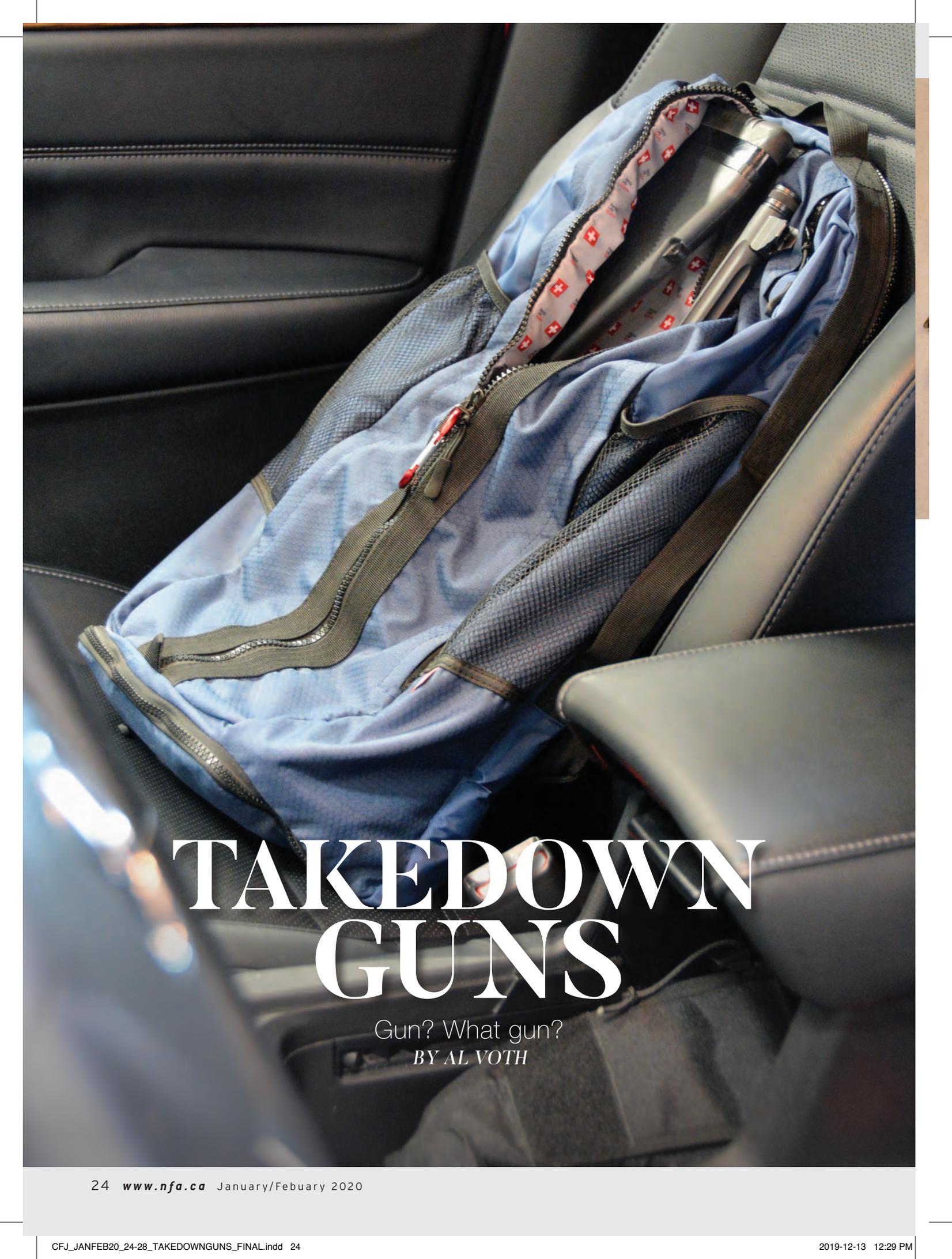
Changing chokes allows me to use cylinder bore for clays, modified choke for grouse and full choke for pheasants and waterfowl. In a pinch, it will shoot dinner-plate-sized groups with slugs at 75 yards. The shotgun has crawled with me across stubble and stones, been dumped in frigid slough muck while duck hunting and bumped and banged in the goose blind. The parkerized finish on the barrel and action has stood up well to hard use, but the birchwood stock shows signs of wear. These scrapes and nicks cause me no grief at all. This is a utility gun.

CAN THE TRUTH BE A LIE?

I still have all three pump guns and love them. My thinking about how three of the same kind of guns would develop shooting skills was correct. Training with the rimfire pump made me more effective with both shotgun and centrefire. Safety placement and function are the same on all three guns, as is the location of the bolt release. Even though each gun has a different length of stroke, all three guns require the same kind of action to cycle. Each one is a lot like the other. These guns helped

me learn to shoot fast offhand and have been used to fill my freezers with game. But pumps have their limitations. Pumps don't accept bipods and the forend of the gun needs to be cycled to chamber a fresh round. The triggers are squishy and difficult to gunsmith or replace with a finer alternate. Follow-up shots from a solid rest require breaking contact with the rest. And while the ker-chunk of a pump gun is a particularly satisfying sound, slamming a cartridge into the chamber isn't exactly quiet, a challenge when you are attempting a stalk. I point to these reasons when accused of breaking my promise to limit myself to just three guns.

Even now, when I consider the original three-gun strategy, it was a solid one. Pump actions are their own kind of peculiar. It takes practice to cycle the action quickly after every shot. It is true this three-pump-gun battery will let you take any huntable game in Canada. You might even think these three guns will be right for you and you might tell folks this. You may even make a promise to someone you negotiate your budget with, that you will only ever need these three guns. Just don't lie to yourself. 🍀



TAKEDOWN GUNS

Gun? What gun?
BY AL VOTH



This vintage Savage 99 accomplishes takedown by removing the forend and unscrewing the barrel. A key in the forend engages the barrel and receiver to lock things in place.

I don't think anyone knows who invented the first takedown gun. However, I'm willing to bet they did it for one of two reasons: concealment or compact storage. Okay, maybe both reasons factored into it. And if they did, the reason(s) the first takedown gun was built would be similar to why they are becoming so popular today. After all, the desire to obscure the fact you have a gun, as well as saving space during storage/transport, seem to be the reasons behind all the takedown designs popping up in the marketplace. But like most major design modifications, turning a typical rifle or shotgun into a takedown version requires compromise. Yes, you gain something, but it's at the risk of losing something else.

But before we look at some of the advantages and disadvantages of takedown guns, we really need to define the term. For me, something like the following works: A takedown gun is a rifle or shotgun which quickly separates (and reassembles) into two pieces of approximately the same length without the use of tools.

Does that make a typical break-action shotgun a takedown gun? I think it does,

even though we don't normally attach the 'takedown' label to them. Often, they disassemble into three pieces, not two, and the barrel can be significantly longer than the action and buttstock, but in my opinion if it's a no-tool disassembly, then it's a takedown design. In my book, firearms where the buttstock simply folds aside don't qualify as takedown designs. However, I'd be willing to extend the definition to include guns which fold by "breaking" apart at the breech and aren't shootable in the folded position. I'm thinking of guns like the Midland Backpack shotgun and Kel-Tec's SUB-2000 pistol calibre carbine.

TAKEDOWN SYSTEMS

Of course, break-action designs are just one way to build a takedown gun, and that first-ever takedown gun may have been built on a hinge system. Modern break-action versions are more durable than ever and built so precisely that interchangeable barrels which don't require fitting are available as aftermarket products. Normally, hinge systems are limited in number of shots by the number of barrels. Single and double barrels are the most common, with a few

three-barrel options available, but usually at a high price.

When the topic turns to takedown systems other than a hinge design, things get more interesting to me. Securely attaching a barrel to an action for safe and accurate shooting requires some good engineering. The most common system is the use of threads, often of an interrupted design. And the more advanced systems will incorporate a method of compensating for wear so that the barrel/action junction remains tight.

One of the simplest takedown systems I've seen is on the Savage 99, lever-action takedown. There, the barrel is threaded to the receiver with conventional threads, but it isn't torqued any more than just hand tight. Then, when the forend is installed, a key in it fits into a slot which passes through the barrel/receiver junction and keeps the barrel from spinning loose. There is no system to compensate for wear. And since the 99's magazine is contained in the receiver, there's no need to deal with it.

Winchester's Model 12 and 1897 shotguns are early examples of pump actions built to be takedown friendly. They use interrupted threads and require a 90-degree barrel rotation to lock in place. But dealing with the magazine tube is always an issue, as it must protrude into the action for proper function. Therefore, it's necessary to engineer a system for it as well, and Winchester turned to interrupted threads again. >



This Tactical Solutions rimfire uses a lever under the forend to break the gun down into two pieces.

threads, but both have a large knurled nut that can be adjusted by the owner to compensate for wear. Both the rimfire Tac-Sol and the 9mm Ruger unlock via a lever located at the bottom of the forend, just forward of the joint.

TAKEDOWN ADVANTAGES

As I've already suggested, one of the key benefits of takedown guns is their ability to be stored and transported in a compact fashion. Many gun owners live in smaller accommodations, especially in large cities, and cars certainly aren't getting any bigger, so owning a long gun that can be stored and transported in a short container is an attractive option. Also, if taking commercial transportation or even shipping a gun, a short package is preferable to a long, unwieldy one.

The second benefit of takedown guns is their ability to not look like guns when cased. This, I believe, is a major reason for their current popularity. We live in an age when the sight of a gun, or even a gun case, will cause some people to hyperventilate and immediately call 911. Picture the apartment dweller who must carry a long gun from his home, down the hall, through the lobby and out into the parking lot to his car. If the wrong person sees him with a gun case during this walk, a range trip might be interrupted by the local SWAT team. I know it's not the way things should be, but it is reality.

Several manufacturers are marketing cases which hold takedown guns, but don't look like it. For my Ruger PC Carbine, I found a simple blue backpack at a local discount store for \$20. With the addition of a few Velcro straps in the interior, it now holds the disassembled Ruger securely and doesn't look even a little like it contains a firearm. Nope, no

Of course, many early Winchester lever actions were also available in a takedown configuration. I recently had the privilege of examining one that the owner still hunts with, using it to take a muskox in Canada's north a few years ago. As far as I know, these old Winchesters all use interrupted threads and deal with the magazine tube issue much like their shotguns do. Browning's classic semi-auto rimfire, the SA-22, is a takedown, but gets around the magazine problem by feeding through a magazine tube, which arrives in the receiver via the buttstock. Therefore, just the barrel and forend need to be removed when the gun is disassembled.

Browning's modern lever action, the BLR-81, is available in a takedown version as well, and it doesn't use threads at all. In this gun, a barrel extension simply slides into the receiver in a tight tolerance fit. A lever at the bottom of the gun, just forward of the detachable magazine, activates a transverse locking pin which fits into a recess cut into the bottom of the barrel extension, holding it in place. It seems to work just fine, as the rifle is available in chamberings up to and including the 300 Win Mag.

Some cutting edge, modern takedowns I've been working with include a Tac-Sol X-Ring Takedown and a Ruger PC Carbine. Neither use interrupted



Ruger's 9mm PC Carbine uses an interrupted lug system to lock the barrel to the receiver.

a great time to do a little accuracy and zero-retention testing.

I started with the Tac-Sol rimfire and a Leupold 4X rimfire scope mounted on the receiver. Some 50-metre shooting to see what kind of ammunition it liked produced the unsurprising result that Eley Hollow Point was the best performing hunting-style ammunition in this little gun. A 10-shot group at 50 metres from a solid rest produced a 1.06-inch cluster. Not bad for such a light gun with a low-magnification scope. The next step was to shoot another 10-shot group, but this time do a complete takedown of the rifle between shots. Yes, it was a pain, and as expected the group expanded, measuring 1.57-inches. Still good performance. Then, just because I like shooting rimfires, I single-loaded 10 shots but didn't take the gun apart between shots. That group measured 1.60-inches. This result suggests the group expansion between takedown and non-takedown shooting was due more to me breaking position between shots and the vagaries of manually cycling the action than any variations in the takedown mechanism.

Ruger's PC Carbine was up next. It comes with a rail mounted on the receiver intended for an optic, but iron

"tactical" colours, hooks, loops, straps or morale patches. I have other gun cases with those features. This one is completely low key.

TAKEDOWN DISADVANTAGES

However, it's not all sunshine and roses with takedown guns. And when the discussion turns to disadvantages, the first topic is always accuracy. Of course, that's not a big deal with shotguns, but it certainly is with rifles. Witness the lack of takedown rifles at a benchrest match. But you will find them in the hunting fields, where accuracy requirements aren't as strict. Don't get me wrong, takedown rifles can produce some good accuracy, it's just that they'll never be as accurate or as good at holding zero as a non-takedown design.

The best way to overcome this

disadvantage is to mount the sighting equipment directly on the barrel. That way the barrel's fit and alignment with the receiver becomes less of a factor in the accuracy equation. This, by default, is how it was done in the early days of takedown rifles, when everyone shot with open sights mounted on the barrel. We have better sighting equipment now, but it still needs to be mounted on the barrel if you want to give a takedown gun the best chance to shoot accurately. Browning has recognized this with their BLR-81, in that the barrel of this rifle is drilled and tapped at the factory to accept a scope in the scout position.

TESTING

With three takedown rifles in my hands at the same time, all with different sighting systems, I thought it would be



Available in chamberings up to 300 Win Mag, Browning's takedown lever-action doesn't lack power.

sights (including a ghost ring rear) are mounted on the barrel. I ignored the receiver's rail and fabricated another short one to replace the ghost ring, then mounted a Vortex red dot optic to that. I'd already tested this gun for ammunition preferences and found that Hornady American Gunner 115-grain XTP shoots well in it. On test day, a 10-shot group at 50 metres produced a 2.03-inch group, which is just a little larger than normal, as I can usually manage a sub two-inch group. Again, the next step was to shoot another 10-round group but do a complete takedown between shots. In a complete reversal of what I expected, the group measured 1.06-inches. How did that happen? In the search for answers, I repeated what I'd done with the Tac-Sol rifle and fired another group by single

loading, but not performing a takedown. That group measured 1.20-inches. That's worse than the takedown group and still better than the semi-auto one. Obviously, there's nothing wrong with Ruger's takedown system either. I should have guessed, because I'd spent some time shooting gophers this summer with this gun/sight/ammunition combination and the rodents took a beating.

Last up was the vintage Savage 99, with its simplistic takedown system and open, barrel-mounted sights. A shortage of 300 Savage ammunition meant I just tested this rifle for accuracy as assembled, using a few different loads. A couple of loads the rifle didn't like produced three-inch groups at 100 metres, but a handload using Hornady's 130-grain soft point and H4895 powder printed five-shot groups averaging 1.90 inches.

That's about as good as I can shoot with open sights, so I'm giving this old gun a passing grade as well.

CONCLUSIONS

While no one chooses a takedown gun because of its accuracy potential, the practical accuracy of these rifles did surprise me. Combined with their potential to "disappear" in an environment which is alarmed by the mere sight of a gun case means they have a lot of potential for Canadian shooters. If you need to retain a low profile or have storage space challenges because of where you live, a takedown firearm might be a solution worth exploring. Considering how urban our society is becoming and the challenges this brings to gun owners, I expect the popularity of takedown firearms will only increase. 🍷

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After assembly, the Scope Setter tool is leveled using the supplied bubble level.

THE SCOPE SETTER

Mounting optics true & level
BY JEFF SMITH



With a scope installed, the bubble level is used again to level out the optic.

Scopes have become such an integral part of shooting that most rifles don't even have open sights installed. High-tech tactical, target shooting and hunting reticles, built in range-finding capability, the ability to micro-adjust for windage and elevation, steep angle shots and long-range shooting all make it apparent that correctly mounting a scope is critical. Mount your scope less than perfectly and the possibility of a miss increases. We've come a long way from simply slapping a scope on a rifle, then just eyeballing the crosshairs to see if they are straight before taking a quick trip to the range to sight in and go hunting.

For the past few months, I've been using an interesting tool designed specifically to ensure a scope's crosshairs are perfectly aligned with a firearm's bore. This patent-pending tool was designed

in 2016 at the request of a friend of the company's owner who was frustrated by the tools available at the time. Then, in mid-2017 it was brought to market by Inventure Engineering and Machine located in Boise, Idaho. The Scope Setter is a precision tool which allows a scope to be mounted and leveled in its rings before final installation on the gun.

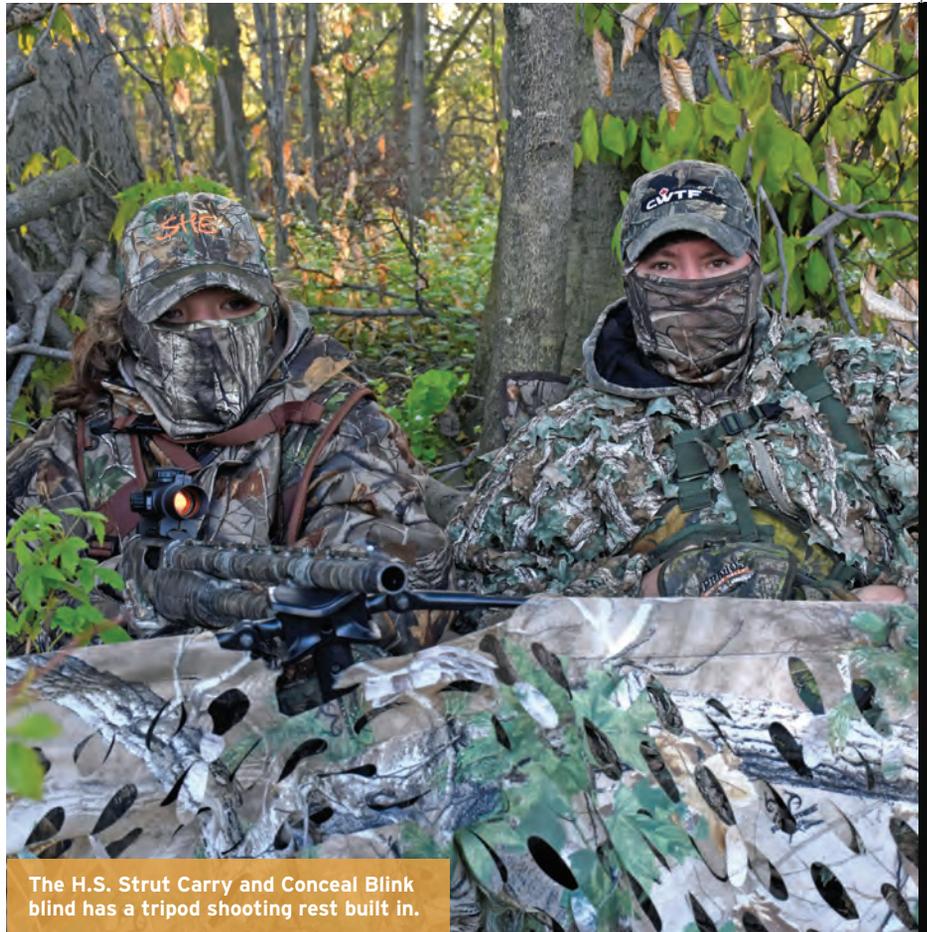
The Scope Setter uses a Picatinny rail, which attaches to a crossbar to make a T-shaped tool. Once assembled, it rests on your work surface with three rubber feet which are used to level the unit, using the included level. With the tool now prepared, loosely mount the scope in its rings on the firearm where it will be used. Next, slide the scope and rings off the firearm and onto the Scope Setter, tightening the bases to the rail to ensure there is no move-

ment. Then, place the level on top of the scope's elevation turret, either capped or uncapped (as long as it's flat). Carefully rotate the scope until the bubble is centred in the level, and once centred, tighten the ring screws to the recommended torque, checking often that the bubble remains centred. Once the rings are secured and the level is correct, simply loosen the cross bolts which secure the rings to the rail, slide the entire unit off the tool and onto the rifle. The Scope Setter can also be used to align a typical clamp-on, anti-cant bubble level. Just attach the anti-cant device to the scope body and zero its bubble prior to removing the scope for installation on the rifle.

The Scope Setter is available directly from Inventure Engineering and Machine (www.inventeng.com) for \$119 USD plus shipping. 



Primos' Trigger Stick tripod is available in both tall and short versions.



The H.S. Strut Carry and Conceal Blink blind has a tripod shooting rest built in.

GETTING STEADY

Using shooting sticks to make the shot

BY JEFF HELSDON

Every year, hundreds, if not thousands, of shots are missed across the country because of the strange ailment known as buck fever. Its symptoms include an increase in heart rate, an agitated state and a loss of the ability to think clearly. However, these symptoms vary victim to victim. None of these maladies are ideal for making a steady shot, but do pass quickly after the quarry, be it deer, turkey or coyote, retreats.

There is a partial cure for buck fever, it's a simple shooting stick which can aid in keeping your gun steady while under the fever's influence. Shooting sticks have been around for a while, but their use is becoming more commonplace. There are monopod options and bipods, but I find tripod sticks to be the most stable.

Tripod sticks aren't ideal for all situations, as portability is sacrificed for steadiness. But a tripod stick has become a staple for me when using a ground blind, as it always allows the gun to be at the ready, or easily raised. These sticks

shine for long-range shots when there is time to set up, when a hunter is on stand as part of a drive or just watching a trail. One of the biggest advantages is the tripod is self-sustaining and won't fall over when the gun is lifted off.

THREE UNIQUE SHOOTING TRIPODS

The Primos Trigger Stick Gen3 is one commonly seen shooting stick. It comes in short models ideal for seated or kneeling positions and a tall version for standing shots. At the heart of the system is the trigger which releases the leg locks, allowing for quick height adjustments. It's simply a matter of holding the stick at the right height, hitting the trigger and the legs will extend to hit the ground.

This is the third generation of the Trigger Stick concept, and improvements have been made along the way. The gun yoke in the latest version easily switches out to a threaded bolt for optics or a camera. Once the stick is set, changing the angle is a simple matter of squeezing

the trigger.

The Vanguard Quest T62U has to be adjusted like a tripod, one leg at a time, but has its own unique versatility. One of the legs is removable to create a monopod to which the gun yoke can be attached. When the single leg is removed, it leaves the option of using the remaining two as a bipod. This really is three shooting sticks in one.

H.S. Strut's Conceal and Carry Ground Blind is marketed as a turkey hunting blind, but it's really a blind and tripod shooting support in one. At the centre of the blind screen is a plastic tripod gun rest. This is ideal for both turkey hunting and predator hunting, as it steadies the gun and conceals the hunter. There are no height adjustments with this system though.

If you haven't tried shooting sticks yet, look at these or the many other options on the market. A tripod shooting support won't cure buck fever, but it will help you cope with the symptoms. 

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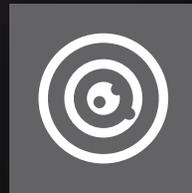
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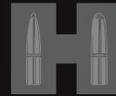
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CANADIAN SHOTSHELL

The Ontario roots of Kent Cartridge

BY JEFF HELSDON





Kent recently launched its Fasteel 2.0 ammunition, and it's quickly becoming a favourite of Canadian bird hunters.

When a group of well-to-do duck hunters, frustrated by the ineffectiveness of early steel ammunition, came up with the idea of starting their own company, little did they imagine it would turn into a major player in the North American shotshell market. That's the story behind Kent shotshells, a company most Canadian shotgunners are familiar with, but aren't aware of its Canadian roots.

When the original concept of the company was dreamed up in 1996, Bob Cove was approached. Cove, now a director with Kent Canada Holdings, was with the company in its early days and became the CEO. "It was really a group of Canadian sportsmen who belonged to a club north of Toronto," he recounted. "I was known to them through shooting clays and training bird dogs."

He explained the original steel shot loads coming out of the United States in those days weren't that good. Of course, in the 20-plus years since that situation has changed with the development of faster powders and better

shot cups for steel. "But even now, you can't shoot steel shot through a fine old English game gun," Cove said.

The search for an alternative to steel loads ended up in England and Kent Cartridge. At the time, the company's big product was Molyshot. This was a blend of powdered molybdenum and tungsten, held together with a polymer. Cove said the original product was similar to lead, but wasn't yet legal in Canada. The Canadian ownership group became involved in a joint venture that ultimately turned into an acquisition.

What Cove found was the original Molyshot didn't have a viable production process, so research started on what was necessary to make this product on a large scale. The result was what became known on this side of the pond as Kent's original Tungsten Matrix product. It was pure tungsten powder held together by a polymer and the molybdenum was dropped. "The idea was to produce a product with the same properties as lead and the same density," Cove said.

The management of the young company knew a production facility in North

America was necessary for business success, so the initial plan was to build a facility in Canada. However, an acquisition in the United States filled this need instead when Kent purchased ACTIV, a company known for producing shotgun shells with no visible metal around the base of the shell. "That was a good hull, but it got put in the market before its time," Cove said. "A lot of people said if a duck or goose load doesn't have an inch-and-a-half of brass around the base, it isn't any good, despite the fact that the brass doesn't have anything to do with it."

The purchase took place in 1997 and Kent was integrated into the North American market in 1998, initially with the tungsten matrix load. "It found a lot of favour and got a lot of good ink," Cove said, relating that the company was in the practice of taking writers on trips using the shells.

From these beginnings, development of their own steel shot loads, labeled Fasteel, started. It quickly became the company's bread and butter and still is. Then, in England in 1998, the original



Kent's Bismuth loads allow using family heirloom firearms, like the author's grandfather's Model 12 in 16 gauge.

Kent's three-nation presence includes deep Canadian roots.



Kent facility was shut down after Gamebore was purchased. Cove said this company was larger than ACTIV and shipped shotgun shells around the world. It was known for its White Gold and Black Gold lines of competitive shells.

The company's focus has always been on waterfowl loads and on producing a quality product. They are not as

price focused as Winchester, Federal and Remington. "We've always been a smaller company and we deal with what we believe is a better-quality product," he said. "For us, the whole Kent story is the shot. We had the original Tungsten Matrix and then Fasteel. A few years ago, we started loading bismuth."

The bismuth loads started with a search to find an alternate shot more

economical than tungsten matrix. Bismuth is not as dense as tungsten and there was an issue with frangibility – it fractures easily. As for the non-toxic part, think of Pepto Bismol, in which a type of bismuth is used. From the early experiments with bismuth, Kent followed the path it had taken with its other shot, research and development to improve it. Cove insisted if Kent was going to sell bismuth, the company needed to make it. So, all the company's shot is manufactured at the Gamebore facility in England. The bismuth loads were launched in 2016, with shells for the sub-gauges.

Although Kent makes its Fasteel, Tungsten Matrix and Bismuth, the company purchases its hulls from Cheddite. This European company also owns Quebec-based shotgun shell company Challenger. "You really have to have a huge market to make your own hulls and you better have a market for the hulls you don't use," Cove said.

A new hull was part of the difference when the new Fasteel 2.0 shotgun loads were being developed a few years ago. Cove explained new, faster powders need a more robust hull. The key to hulls is the tube, not the brass, he claims. "What provides the integrity is the plastic base wad in the bottom," he ex-



Developing a better waterfowl hunting load was the driving force behind the start of Kent Cartridge.

plained, adding Kent worked with Chedite to design the new hull for Fasteel 2.0. The company also worked with Alliant to get the right powder for it.

Andy Laidley, Kent's vice-president of sales and marketing, explained many of the enhancements in the former Silver Steel line were incorporated into Fasteel 2.0. "We really wanted to build a product for the Canadian market, be it early season or late January," he said.

Steel dove loads are another niche market Kent is excelling in. "We saw an opportunity to get a product that performed," Laidley said. "It sets us apart and we developed a niche here. Our dove load sales are growing annually." Their most recent launch was the new TK-7 turkey loads. These are a premium tungsten product, which costs less than many of its competitors.

Laidley said one of the company's future directions is to expand on products

that will allow hunters and shooters to use their old guns which can't handle new steel loads. "It's a return to our roots and it's driven by consumer needs," he said.

Corporately, today the American company is Kent Gamebore Corp, which is a US company but is Canadian owned. With a recent change in the executive team due to retirement, there has been change within Kent. "It's really re-engaged the company, and everyone has a common vision," Laidley said. "Canada and the US are working together toward shared goals."

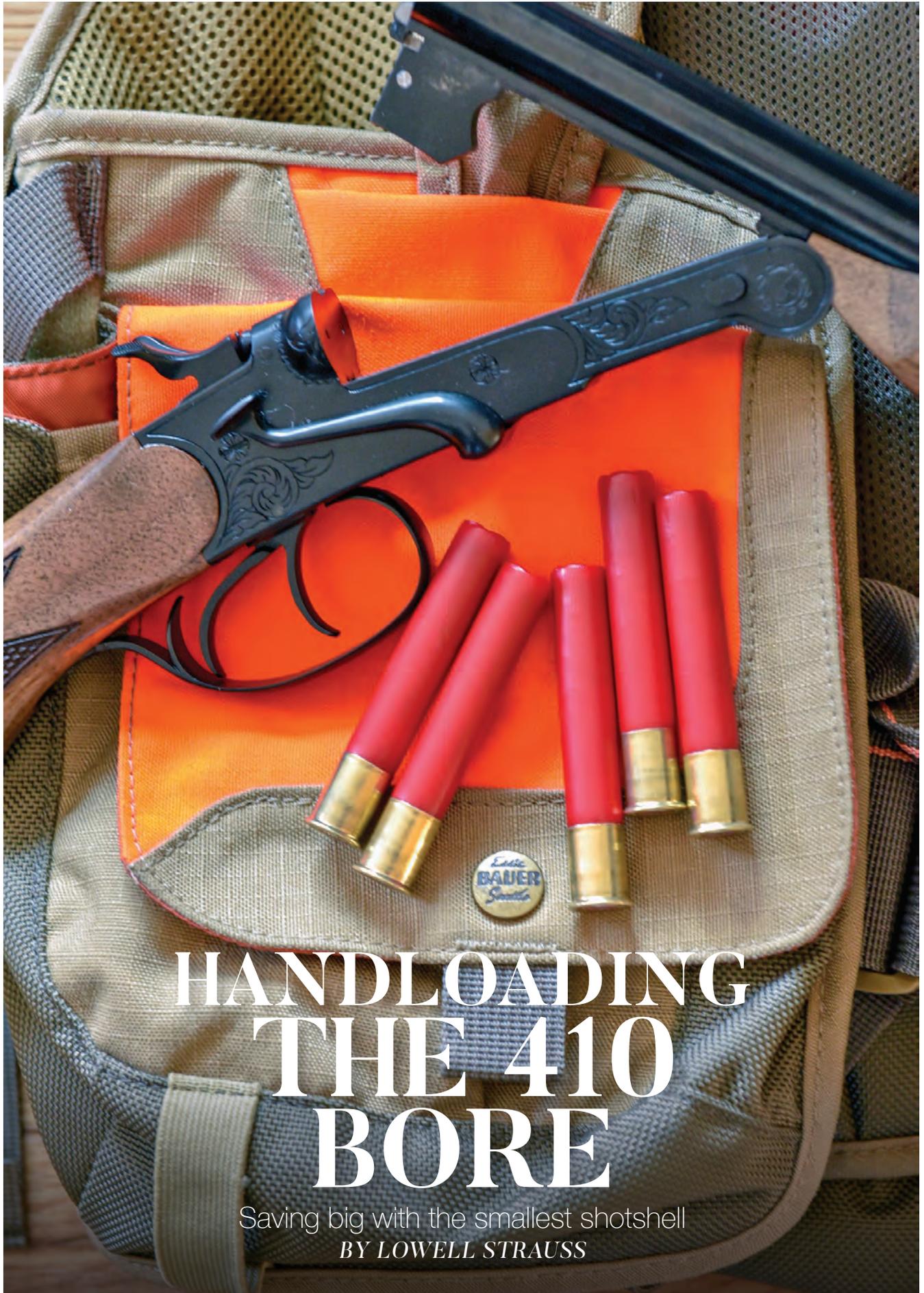
The company intends on continuing its course as a shotgun shell producer. There are no plans to produce rifle or handgun ammunition. "That's an entirely different game," Cove said.

Part of the change with the new management is Kent is upping its support of conservation organizations. In

particular, youth events get support as Laidley realizes the traditional customer base is aging. Laidley added the company is working on strategic partnerships with conservation organizations and manufacturers of shotgun products. "We are really expanding our horizons but not taking our eye off the ball," he said. "We make shotgun ammunition and that's where we want to be. We aren't changing."

And that's something Cove is satisfied with. He has been impressed with the growth of the company and quality of loads produced. "It's been satisfying over the years when people in North America talk about shotgun shells, it's not just Winchester, Remington and Federal, but Winchester, Remington, Federal and Kent," he said, adding, "And to give them their due, Hevi-Shot." That's an exponential growth for a company that started through a conversation at a duck club. 

BERETTA



HANDLOADING THE 410 BORE

Saving big with the smallest shotshell
BY LOWELL STRAUSS

If there ever was a poster child for cost-effective handloading, it would be the lowly 410 Bore shotshell. As a result, I feel smug each time I pull the handle on the press which is dedicated to loading the smallest shotgun cartridge. And why not? I'm saving money with each stroke of the press. Sure, there are other reasons to carefully handload shotgun ammunition, like choice of shot size and optimum pattern density, but let's be honest, we all like to save money handloading ammunition. Handloading the tiny 410 Bore shotshell, with its small shot and tiny powder charges, saves cold, hard cash!

WHY SHOOT THE 410 BORE?

The smallest shotgun bore, measuring a mere .410-inch in diameter, is making a big comeback. Maybe because what it lacks in size it makes up for in fun and utility. On the farm, my dad would use his "little shotgun," a no-frills Lakefield Mossberg bolt-action, for varmint control. Over the years, many other makes and models of shotguns have featured a 410 Bore chamber. And now, in addition to the more traditional break-action shotguns, manufacturers are building a wider variety of action types, including semi-auto, lever and even guns with a revolving cylinder.

Except for the price of a box of ammunition, there's a lot to like about the 410 Bore. At last look, a box of 25 shotshells costs about \$25 at my local gun shop. A price of \$1 per shot keeps the little gun relegated to the safe except for special occasions. But there's good news. If you handload, the price drops to about \$3 to \$4 per box, depending on the components used.

Ammunition manufacturers sell large volumes of the popular 12-gauge shotshells, and to a lesser extent 20 gauge as well, which keeps prices low. The opposite is true for the smaller offerings, which are more economical to load than to purchase. It's simple supply and demand. Retail prices for loaded ammunition are high, while the actual cost of components is relatively low.

PRICE BREAKDOWN

An initial investment of equipment must be considered in the overall decision to handload the 410 Bore, but the significant cost savings per box means it doesn't take long to recoup tooling costs, especially if you shoot a high volume of shells each year.

I recently purchased a batch of new



The MEC 600 JR Mark V is a single-stage reloading press that is easy to use and creates professional-looking shotshells.



Three modern shotguns chambered in 410 Bore: a double-barrel break-action, a revolving-action and a lever-action.

components to write this review. A bag of 100 primed three-inch hulls cost \$27, wads cost \$16 for 250, lead shot was \$70 for 25 pounds, and I paid \$35 for one pound of powder. For sporting clays, a shooter using half-ounce loads can produce 800 rounds from a 25-pound bag of shot. Some loads use overshot cards, which add a couple of cents per load if you need them. An initial 11/16-ounce, three-inch hunting load costs about \$11.50 per box. At \$0.27 each, a new hull is the most expensive component and that price drops significantly for once-fired hulls. If you already have empty hulls, the cost for a box of shotshells drops to about \$6 including a primer. With lighter half-ounce target loads and reused hulls, the price per box is \$3.

TOOLING UP

An up-to-date handloading manual is a must. I chose the Ballistic Products Inc. Small Bore Reloading Manual (8th edition) because it included their house-brand wads in the data. It's also worth checking two online sites for reliable handloading data, specifically Hodgdon Powder and Alliant Powder. And, of course, follow all handloading recipes exactly to ensure safe loads.

There are a couple of methods for assembling shotshells, but the easiest and fastest method is with a dedicated press. I use the MEC 600 JR Mark V. It includes five stations, which de-prime and resize, prime, charge with powder, seat the wad, charge with shot and finally crimp.

The MEC 600 JR Mark V comes ready to load three-inch 410 Bore shotshells,



Pattering is the last step in load development. For the 410 Bore, I chose to pattern at 25 yards and count the hits within a 20-inch circle

and with an optional Short Kit converts the three-inch press to load 2.5-inch hulls. The Short Kit is a plate that sits on stations three, four and five to fill the space. The Mark V uses a Pro-Check bracket that prevents powder and shot spills by only allowing the powder to dispense after the operating handle is lowered.

The MEC 600 JR Mark V includes a powder/shot charging bar that uses numbered bushings to dispense the correct amount of powder and shot. When working up a load, I like to use the Universal Charge Bar by Canadian company Multi-Scale Charge Ltd. But you'll still need an accurate scale, digital or beam, to ensure accurate amounts of powder and shot.

COMPONENTS

Handloading for shotguns is a lot like picking a recipe from a cookbook. The first step is to pick a load that is best

for the type of shooting you're doing. Do you need high velocity or heavy payload? Are tight or open patterns best for you? Referencing a handloading manual, you'll notice several loads that'll work. For me, the next step is to narrow down the loads based on the components I have on hand. Each load in the manual has been tested safe, but only with the components listed. Switching any primer, hull, powder (and charge), wad and type of shot may have a big impact on pressures – too much and bad things happen. If I have what I need to assemble a couple of different loads, I'll assemble a handful of rounds and pattern them through my shotgun.

There are a few different wads for the 410 Bore, each with a different purpose. The Ballistic Products Stump Wad is a short, hour-glass shaped wad designed for open patterns at short range. Its tiny shot cup captures only the portion of

the shot making up the pattern's core, with the remainder filling the outer ring of the pattern. It's a perfect wad when loading for skeet. On the other end of the spectrum is the BP Stretch Wad. It features an elongated cup and a cushion section for high velocity and tight pattern loads. In between these two are wads that balance the pattern density and specialty wads that accommodate buckshot and spreader loads. Federal, Winchester, Remington and Claybuster also make a one-piece wad for the 410 Bore.

MORE LOAD OPTIONS

Beyond the cost savings, handloaders can select loads that often are hard to find (if they exist at all) as factory ammunition. Most factory ammunition is loaded for sporting clays or for personal defence and not much is in the middle for small game hunting. My friend is a houndsman, runs beagles and is an avid rabbit hunter. His go-to shotgun is a 410 Bore with a stout load of No. 4 or No. 5 shot, as he finds this load is effective out to 30 yards. Lighter shot just doesn't carry the energy needed to cleanly kill a rabbit. He prefers a tight pattern, allowing him to deliver a solid hit or an outright miss.

Premium nickel or copper-plated shot is harder and less likely to deform during firing, meaning few fliers and more even patterns. Driven at high velocities, nickel-plated loads are far more deadly than their pellet count would suggest. Handloading allows shooters to build loads for optimum shot size, velocity and pattern by picking appropriate components.

PATTERNS ON PAPER

A serious student of the shotgun will pattern new loads to see how well they perform in their shotgun. Part of the fun in handloading is trying different wad/choke combinations and observing the pattern. A good pattern is one with no hole large enough for the intended target to fit through. For game, that means several pellets for a humane kill. I was impressed by how well the Stretch Wad worked for tight patterns. An industry standard for patterning is to count the number of hits in a 30-inch circle at 40 yards. Because of its relatively light payload, a patterning test for the 410 Bore at this distance is relatively meaningless. Most people shorten that distance to 25 yards and are most interested in the 20-inch core

Using fired hulls reduces the cost of reloading the 410 Bore even more because the hull is the most expensive component.



of the pattern, which is what I did for this evaluation.

By changing chokes, wads, charge weight and velocity, handloaders can fine-tune patterns for their intended target. Just for fun, I loaded a light target load, a mid-weight and a heavy hunting load. In the light half-ounce load, I used the Stretch Wad to keep patterns tight. A modified choke created a 51 per cent pattern in a 20-inch circle, while an improved-modified choke produced a 60 per cent pattern. I achieved similar results with the mid-weight load, shooting 53 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively. In the heavy load, patterns tightened, shooting a 61 per cent pattern with the modified choke and a 70 per cent pattern with improved-modified. This last load is a promising game load.

CHALLENGES

The way to handload the 410 Bore is identical to every other shotshell, everything is just smaller. My biggest issue was with larger-sized shot bridging in the drop-tube. Sometimes it would hang up momentarily, but a shake of the handle would liberate it. Occasionally I thought the entire shot charge had dropped and I'd lift the handle only to have a half dozen pellets cascade out of the press and bounce across my bench. For obvious reasons,

this problem gets worse as shot size increases. If you're a fan of large shot, and by "large," I mean lead No. 4, 5 and 6, it may be just as fast to dip the shot and manually pour it in the shotshell.

After I developed a handloading rhythm and pushed the charging bar with enough authority to keep the shot flowing through the tube, I started cranking out ammunition fast. This is not a problem with the press, just a physical limitation of the 410 Bore's small diameter.

FINAL THOUGHTS

If you like to shoot the small shotguns, want to save big money and enjoy experimenting with different loads, I'd encourage you to investigate handloading for the 410 Bore. And now that I've learned the secret to making inexpensive ammunition for this small gun, I may need to reinvest my savings into another 410 Bore shotgun or two. 

Resources:

Bilozir Fine Guns
www.bilozir.net/

Email: reloading@bilozir.net

Phone: 403-938-6066

Canadian supplier of Ballistic Products and MEC reloading presses



BUILDING BETTER HANDLOADS

Tips for improving accuracy & safety

BY THOMAS TABOR

The procedures involved in hand-loading your own cartridges are fairly simple and easy to master, but to load the highest quality cartridges requires careful attention to even the smallest details. It is sometimes these seemingly inconsequential characteristics that make handloaded cartridges significantly better than anything you can purchase over the counter.

POWDER SELECTION

Most powders are designed to perform at their best within a narrow range of cartridges, but no one should consider those recommended loads to be equal in performance. Variables in rifle design, as well as shooting conditions, can sometimes significantly affect performance. For example, in an ideal shooting world the powder charge would always be completely burned up inside the rifle barrel in order to produce the optimum level of velocity and energy. But that doesn't always occur, particularly when a slower-burning powder is selected for use in a short-barrelled firearm. In this case, a better choice might be a slightly faster burning powder for those rifles possessing barrels less than about 22 inches long. And if you are a hunter that goes afield in widely fluctuating temperatures, it is a good idea to steer clear of some powders. Temperature affects some powders more than others, so it's wise to choose a powder which produces uniform velocities across a variety of temperatures.

While powder manufacturers strive to provide the highest degree of consistency possible in their products, in some

cases there could be slight variations from one powder lot to another. I once experienced what I view to be an extreme case of this variation. At the time I was running low on one of my favourite magnum cartridge powders and headed to the local sporting store to replenish my supply. But when I began loading and testing those cartridges using the powder from the new lot, I was shocked to find I had to reduce my usual powder charge by a full two grains in order to stave off any signs of excess pressure. Even though the powder manufacturer and powder type were identical, and I was firing the ammunition in the same rifle I always did; the chemical makeup was just different enough that I had to reduce the charge by nearly three per cent in order to compensate for the variation. Obviously, this was an unusual

and extreme case, but it emphasizes the need when changing powder lots to always start over by gradually working the load up from the minimum recommended powder charge.

Obviously, most handloaders know you should never exceed the powder charges shown as maximum in a reputable manual. However, you should also avoid loading less than the minimum published charge weights. While on the surface it might seem contrary to logic, in some instances exceptionally high chamber pressures can be produced when a reduced powder charge is loaded in large-volume cases.

PRIMER SELECTION

Magnum primers are generally called for when loading magnum-class cartridges, or when powder charges run 60



grains or greater. But sometimes when facing colder weather conditions, I prefer to use this type of primer even in my smaller calibres. But just like changing any other component part, you must do so cautiously by working up the load gradually, always watching for any signs of developing pressure.

Primers should always be seated as deep inside the primer pocket as possible, but never crushed. For the highest level of consistency, I like to accomplish this in a two-step approach. First, I seat the primer halfway inside the pocket of the case. Then with the cartridge still held by the shell holder, I spin the case 180 degrees before seating it the rest of the way in. I've found that doing so helps to ensure a higher degree of consistency in the seating process. Be aware as well that sometimes a primer can flip around and become seated upside down inside the pocket. So, visually check your work and run a finger over the primer after it has been seated to make sure everything is copacetic. Your finger is sensitive enough to detect the most minor of inconsistencies.

BULLET SEATING

Ammunition factories typically seat their bullets deeper than some shooters prefer. The factory does this because sometimes there are slight dimensional variations from one rifle chamber to another and seating the bullets deeper goes a long way to hedge off any potential cartridge feeding and chambering problems.

In some cases, seating your bullets out just shy of touching the lands of the barrel can produce a higher degree of accuracy. But seating your bullets in this manner can also result in increasing the chamber pressure. In this case, I would recommend you begin by seating a few rounds with the bullets seated normally. After firing those cartridges and checking for any signs of building pressures and seeing none, you can then proceed to increase the overall cartridge length in increments of about .005 inches, always checking for any signs of building pressure.

While some loads will shoot more accurately by seating the bullets close to the rifling, there are exceptions. The officials at Barnes Bullets have indicated their totally copper constructed X, SLC and Triple Shock bullets usually perform best when they are not seated close to the lands. They recommend a seating depth of 0.30 inches to .070 inches away from touching the rifling.

When it comes to bullet seating, I'm

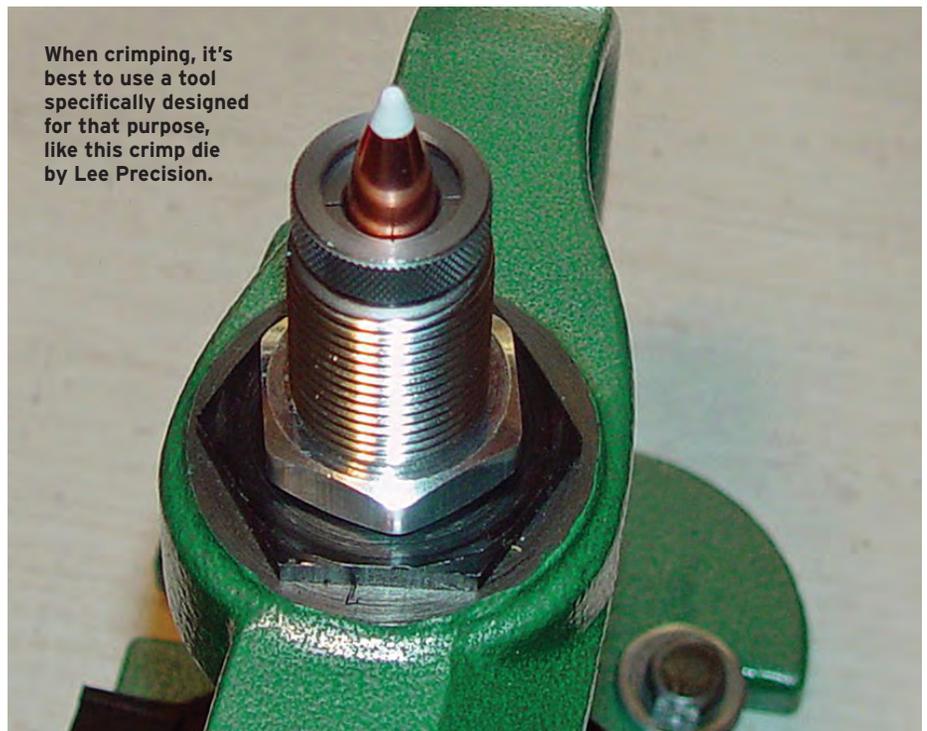
confident when I say that most people simply set the bullet on the mouth of the case, then with one downward sweep of the press handle the bullets are driven home to their ultimate depth. A better approach, however, is to seat the bullet a quarter to halfway into the case, followed by rotating the case 180 degrees before seating it the rest of the way. Seating the bullets in this way helps to ensure it is better aligned to both the neck of the case, as well as the chamber of the firearm.

TO CRIMP OR NOT TO CRIMP

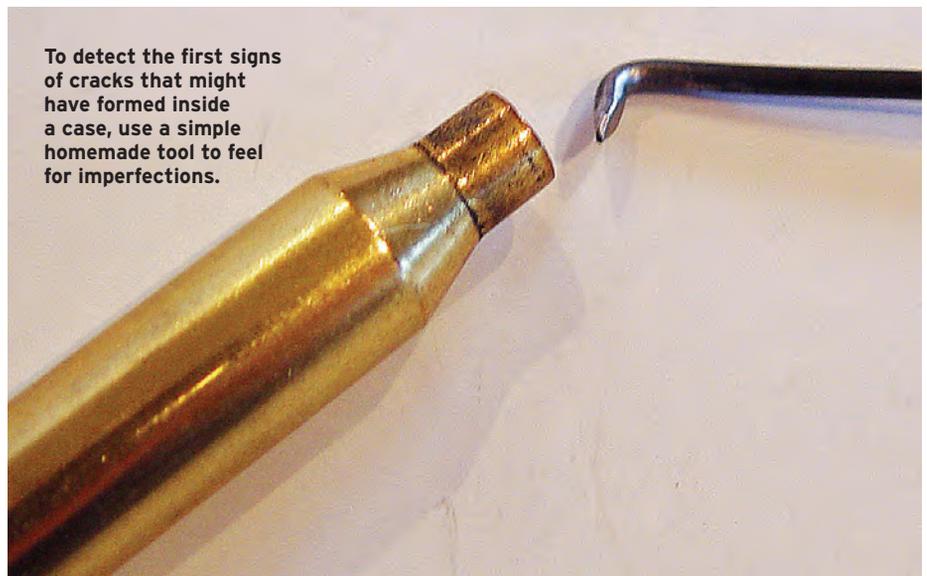
In some instances, crimping the case neck around the bullet is desirable,

particularly when loading cartridges to be shot in heavy recoiling rifles or in firearms which possess tubular magazines. This is done in order to prevent the bullet from being driven deeper into the case. If this should happen, at a minimum it could adversely affect your shooting accuracy, and at worst it could result in driving chamber pressure to unsafe levels.

Most handloading seating dies come with the capability for crimping, but I have often experienced miserable results when crimping case necks that way. When trying to obtain the maximum degree of crimp, it sometimes resulted in a bulge forming at the leading edge of the



When crimping, it's best to use a tool specifically designed for that purpose, like this crimp die by Lee Precision.



To detect the first signs of cracks that might have formed inside a case, use a simple homemade tool to feel for imperfections.



Marking a cartridge case with a permanent marker each time it is reloaded is an easy way to keep track of the case's life expectancy.

case shoulder, frequently rendering the shell incapable of being chambered. This happens even easier when attempting to crimp a bullet which doesn't possess a cannelure, or the location of the groove doesn't correspond with the desired seating depth of the bullet. If you should decide to crimp your bullets, a much better approach is to use a collet crimping die for the job, like those produced by Lee Precision, Inc. In my experience, these dies are easy to use and produce near perfect results virtually every time.

THE GOOD & BAD OF CARTRIDGE CASES

Worn out cartridge cases should always be avoided, as with repeated loadings splits and ruptures can form, which can seriously affect accuracy and safety. To help prevent this, it is best to keep track of how many times your cases have been reloaded, then discard them long before a problem has a chance to develop. A simple way to do this is to use a permanent marker to place a tick mark on the case head each time it has been loaded.

Sometimes, the first place cracks and ruptures begin to form is out of view, inside the case. An easy way to detect these problems before they have a chance to break through to the outside is by using a simple tool you can make yourself. Using a piece of wire, sharpen it to a point on one end, then bend the wire at a right angle very near the tip.

Once that has been accomplished, it can be slipped inside the case and rubbed up and down on the wall. You will likely be amazed at how easy it is to detect the most minor of imperfections long before they have a chance to break through to the outside.

You should never assume that all cartridge cases are the same. Cases can vary in capacity and dimensions internally from one manufacturer to another, and to a lesser degree from one lot to another. Variations in the brass thickness, as well as internal dimensions, will affect the powder capacity of the case. Keeping your cases segregated by both manufacturer and lot number will help to ensure the highest level of consistency.

Most handloaders understand that cartridge cases "grow" in length with each firing, which makes it necessary for the case to be periodically trimmed back to acceptable dimensions. Some shooters wait until the brass is approaching the maximum recommended length, but I prefer to trim my cases each time they have been shot. Doing so makes the trimming process much easier and encourages a higher degree of uniformity.

MOLY-COATED BULLETS

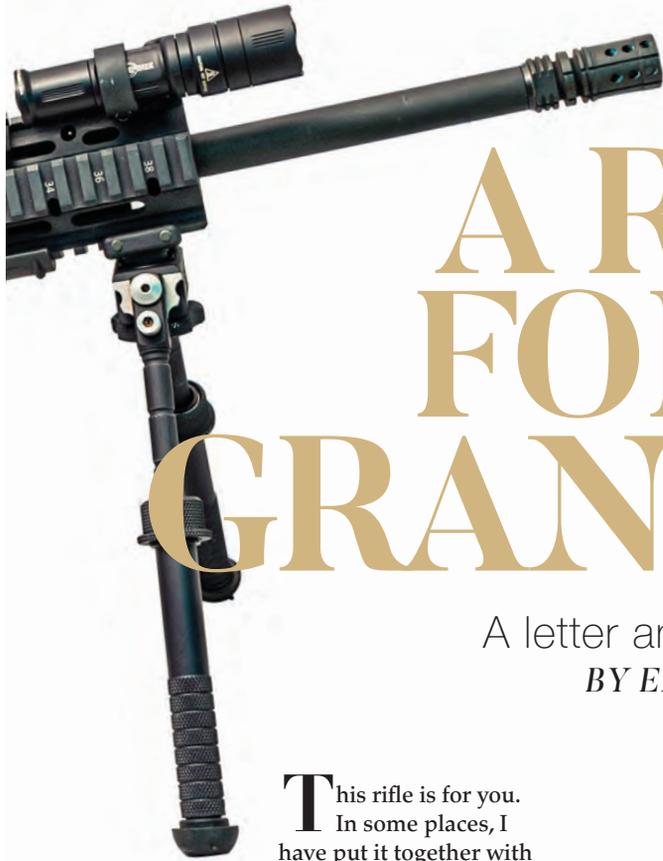
A few years back, there was a tremendous push for the use of moly-coated bullets. It was said that shooting these bullets produced a decrease in chamber

pressures of three to five per cent. It is also professed that reduced bore fouling would take place; in some instances, better accuracy could be expected; and due to the professed reduced friction, it was said longer barrel life may even result. Whether you believe all those claims or not, it is important to note in some instances a barrel must be conditioned to shoot this style of bullet. Sometimes that means acceptable groups cannot be achieved until up to 30 moly rounds have been fired through the barrel. And, some shooters have reported even more fired rounds were needed before the accuracy settled down. Since their introduction, the popularity of moly-coated bullets seems to have waned. I'm guessing this might be due to their lack of ability to live up to all those claims of better performance.

THE WAY I SEE IT

While ammunition manufacturers in recent years have made great inroads on the quality of their factory-loaded ammunition, most handloaders are convinced their own handloads provide superior performance. The reason why is because a handloader typically gives more attention to detail than a factory can, and they can tailor cartridges to a specific firearm. Those two factors will always play a major role when it comes to producing the best possible handloads. 





A RIFLE FOR MY GRANDCHILD

A letter and a gift to the future

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

This rifle is for you. In some places, I have put it together with my own hands. In others, I have placed trust in people who spend their lives making such things. It is not a light rifle. Nor is it a comfortable one. It is not flashy, or fast, or aspiring to a perfection of accuracy. But it is capable, built to outlive me, and someday will be yours.

I can only speculate as to the nature of the world you now inhabit. From where I sit, barely two decades into the third millennium, the forecast appears bleak and unforgiving. You will likely have witnessed the reappearance of Halley's Comet. I hope I am there with you.

If current trends continue, I suspect you have borne witness to a rising ocean reclaiming coastal lands, repeated mass starvations, the final draining of our planet's petroleum reserves, and the extinction of many living things I had the luxury of knowing.

The systems that we broadly trusted and structured our lives around in the 20th century are being shaken and tested in the 21st. In my lifetime, we have acknowledged and explored a variety of possible scenarios surrounding humanity's effects on the planet and predicted the challenges those natural feedback systems could create for



us and you. We certainly understand some of what might come to pass, but I would be surprised if we reversed, prevented or even slowed the oncoming disasters we simultaneously worked so diligently to ignore.

I hope this is not the case, but it is entirely possible that you have experienced the second incident of nuclear weapons used against ourselves. The rules-based order that saw our societies grow may have receded further. You may frequently be subject to violent weather that would leave me breathless today.

I am sorry that this rifle is your inheritance. If I could trade it to ensure you were born into a world rich in clean air, drinkable water, plentiful food, with a

responsible and compassionate society, I would. But no such offer exists. It will be a struggle to secure those things for you as I grow older. Right now, I have only this to leave. It is the best I can do.

I have made changes to this rifle. It is not some crude clone of a mid-20th century GI weapon, although its roots lie there. For the various controls and activators, I have prioritized strength, ergonomics, ambidexterity and durability.

This upper receiver is a single, rigid piece. The sights on it will not shift or bend with age and use. This barrel was hammer forged here in Canada, precisely measured for optimum velocity with a common calibre, and outfitted with a compact, robust and effective



compensator. This bolt carrier is coated in nickel boron, it is unlikely to rust and should remain easy to clean for years to come.

The safety is ambidextrous, but reduced in size on the right side, so as not to impede your grip. This charging handle is a single piece of aluminum, designed to be operated easily using either hand, even with the optic mounted. These trigger pins are reinforced and secured to the receiver so they will not drift or rotate, even after what may be decades of use. Both the bolt and magazine release are enlarged but designed to work without extending too far into other regions of the firearm.

This buffer is a self-contained dual spring system that smooths the motion of the rifle as it goes through the recoil cycle. The variable power optic will continue to function without the illumination provided by batteries, and in the event the optic should become damaged, a set of recessed iron-sights are folded into the side.

This bipod and this barrier rest will offer you a stable shooting platform in a wide range of situations. The light is small, but bright, simple and reliable. The stock and grips are made of a hard polymer that should not degrade with age. They can be adjusted to fit your frame and stature, so that this rifle might fit like it was made for you. There is a laminated dope card attached to the sling. Depending on the availability of different weights of ammunition, this card should give you the details you need to fire accurately at extended distances.

You should not need to make any additions or changes to this rifle. It should be reliable and accurate in its current configuration, regardless of the time that has passed. I hope you have a quiet

and private space to become more familiar with it. The grips and stock all have compartments for batteries, documents, and cleaning components. There you will find a version of this letter, written just for you. I believe it to be reasonably weatherproof. It details your maintenance and zeroing information, along with a guide to where you might find additional ammunition and preserved replacement parts should some component fail or break.

With the letter there is also a small digital piece, a micro-SD card. I hope there is still a method for accessing this now doubtlessly antiquated media when you receive it. It contains extensive manuals on cleaning, maintaining and employing this rifle. Versions of this data may already be available to you, but I cannot predict for certain the state of free information availability when you take possession of this item.

I write this letter to you from a particular political environment. Readers other than yourself will scoff at my brazen presumption that the rifle I have built for you will not eventually be prohibited, confiscated, or similarly rendered unavailable by the whims and government of the time. Those people do not understand the fundamental longevity of the firearm. Nor do those who would suggest it "has no

place in civil society," and that ownership of such a thing is an anti-social sin. Despite their threats, they cannot truly take it from you. Should this one be claimed, another can be made. And another. In perpetuity.

There are many impediments to acquiring such a rifle. Some feel there should be more, some feel there should be less. But now that it has been acquired, there is no force that can intercept this one between my hands and yours.

This letter is not written to my child. I have confidence that I will tell them these things in person. I will support and foster them as they grow, to give them guidance when I can, and context when I have no guidance to give. But Grandchild, I do not know that you and I will get as much time together. The future is uncertain.

You may look back at our choices and wish that it had been some other way. I certainly have. I wonder where if some small change could have delivered us a more reasonable world. But what does that mean? Things are not some other way. They are this way and we must play the hand we are dealt.

There is no good reason that you should not be able to give this rifle to your child when the time comes. I hope you can. I hope you do. 🍀

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Point blank

Chris McGarry

A Canadian Version Of The Right To Keep & Bear Arms



Brazil (a country that narrowly voted to ban all civilian gun ownership in 2003) recently elected populist president Jair Bolsonaro, whose solution to the country's violent crime epidemic is to install nationwide concealed carry.

Having been active in the firearms rights advocacy movement in Canada for over a decade, I find one of the major areas of discussion and lamentation amongst gun owners is that nowhere in the Canadian *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is there a section that protects lawful gun ownership, as is the case in the United States with their renowned *Second Amendment*.

This is a complex issue indeed. For anyone who has a good understanding of constitutional law in Canada, they are most likely aware that each of our former constitutions (including the *English Bill of Rights* as well as the *British North America Act*) dating back centuries to England have been incorporated into the *Charter*. While many members of the legal establishment would vehemently disagree, the right for Canadians to own firearms for lawful purposes is included under Section 26.

For a moment, let's examine the *Second Amendment* of the *US Constitution*. For many Canadian gunnies, the US represents pure freedom – at least with regards to firearms ownership. In reality, for those unaware of how the American political system works, each individual state government has the authority to write criminal laws, including legislation that violates the constitution. And nowhere has this been more evident than with the *Second Amendment*. New Hampshire, Texas and Montana are gun

ownership paradises. New Jersey, Illinois and Maryland have gun laws which are worse than ours.

Historians state that the *Second Amendment* was enshrined in the US constitution as a way for the citizenry to defend themselves against a tyrannical government. And yes, this is true. But keep in mind the context of the times the Founding Fathers of America were living in. The United States had just defeated Great Britain (with the assistance of France, I may add).

Citizen militias played a key role in the shaping of both the US and Canada. In fact, if you can believe it, Canada had organized militias before the United States did!

Stepping back from history, we take a look at the world we live in. While it is safe to say that most western countries are still stable and peaceful societies in which to live, the threat of terrorism has become ever more present – even in the streets of Canadian cities. For those of us fighting not only to preserve, but also to expand our firearms rights, the reality that public attitudes toward gun control (meaning that with each year, there is less support for further restrictions while at the same time gun ownership is rising) is a sign that our message is being heard loud and clear.

Even though Canadian (or American) society has not reached the point of chaos where citizens are forced to form

militias, increasing instability is proof that people need the right to protect themselves. This leads us to the specific question in this article: what exactly would a Canadian version of the *Second Amendment* look like?

It's a myth that carry permits don't exist in Canada. Authorization to Carry (ATC) is used frequently by miners, trappers and armoured vehicle personnel, while getting one for the purposes of self-defence can be a tricky affair.

In my opinion, a Canadian right to bear arms would permit any citizen with a restricted PAL to carry a handgun to protect themselves or others, provided they had the same level of firearms training as a police officer. Sure, you'll get the naysayers who will tell you our society has moved too far left for this to ever happen. Brazil (a country that narrowly voted to ban all civilian gun ownership in 2003) recently elected populist president Jair Bolsonaro, whose solution to the country's violent crime epidemic is to install nationwide concealed carry. The wave of crime sweeping Europe brought on by the surging migrant crisis has prompted countries such as Hungary, Italy and Austria to loosen gun restrictions.

Simply changing the wording of the legislation from "may issue" to "shall issue" is a good first step in instituting a Canadian equivalent of the right to bear arms. 



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Liberal Election Promises & Firearms



Current gun control laws are inefficient at curbing crime.

Les lois actuelles sur le contrôle des armes à feu sont inefficaces pour lutter contre la criminalité.

So, I was wrong! I was convinced that the Liberals had been so weakened by various scandals that they were headed for certain defeat. Things turned out somewhat differently. On Oct. 21, 2019, the Liberals were re-elected, albeit with a minority of seats. What does it mean for gun owners?

IMPLEMENTATION OF BILL C-71

As I wrote a few months ago, the full implementation of Bill C-71 is dependent upon the enactment of regulations which, according to the *Firearms Act*, must be submitted to Parliament before they can come into effect. This could not happen during the summer recess or the campaign. However, I fully expect that the Liberals will act swiftly to file and pass those regulations, once Parliament reconvenes.

LIBERAL ELECTION PROMISES

On Sept. 18, 2019, the Liberals announced their program in relation to firearms. There are two main aspects to said program: (i) banning and buy-

ing back so-called assault rifles, and (ii) enabling municipalities to create handgun-free zones. I will discuss them in that order.

BANNING OF & BUYBACK OF SO-CALLED "ASSAULT RIFLES"

This Liberal Party election promise first appeared in the 2015 Liberal election platform, minus the buyback aspect. The latter may very well have come as a result of the recent initiative of the New Zealand government, following last winter's events in Christchurch. To summarize, following the Christchurch mass murders, the New Zealand parliament passed legislation banning all centerfire semi-automatic rifles, including common hunting rifles such as the Browning BAR. The legislation provides for a six-month amnesty period for owners to comply and hand over their newly banned rifles to the police. During the amnesty period, owners who comply voluntarily receive compensation in an amount set by regulations, which may or may not

be representative of fair market value. After the six-month amnesty period, anyone in possession of a banned rifle is liable to confiscation without indemnification and criminal prosecution. As I write this column, compliance level in New Zealand is about 30 per cent, with one month left to the amnesty period. The New Zealand government has yet to announce how it will address this situation. It remains to be seen whether the Canadian government will follow the New Zealand scheme.

One question that arises is what exactly do the Liberals mean when they talk of "assault rifles?" A true "assault rifle," by definition, is a rifle capable of shooting an intermediate cartridge, with select fire capability (i.e. fully automatic or semi-automatic, at the option of the user), with a detachable magazine for quick reloading. First, true assault rifles are already prohibited firearms, a fact that the Liberals conveniently omit to mention during any discussion in respect of gun control. Those who may be

ISTOCK

grandfathered to possess such firearms cannot even use them at gun ranges or legally take them out of their place of storage without an Authorization to Transport issued by a chief firearms officer. In all likelihood, when the Liberals speak of assault rifles, they mean either “scary-looking black guns,” or any semi-automatic rifle that was once used by armed forces, in the course of history. Whether the Canadian government will go as far as New Zealand and ban all centerfire semi-automatic rifles remains to be seen, but it is a distinct possibility.

HANDGUNS

Allowing municipalities to ban handguns on their territory has been a popular theme since the Toronto Danforth Street murders of a few years ago. The recent spree of Toronto gang shootings, conveniently labeled by mainstream media as “gun violence,” only fueled the fire.

Of course, in all this nonsense, nobody thought it worthwhile to mention that possession of a firearm without a licence is already a crime in Canada, pursuant to Section 91 of the *Criminal Code*. Nobody mentioned either that people who are legally licensed to possess handguns are not allowed to use them at any place

other than a licenced gun range or carry them on the street. Of course, neither the Danforth Street shooter, nor the numerous gang members, who shoot one another in Canada’s big cities while fighting for control of the lucrative drug trade and other criminal endeavours, comply with existing Canadian gun laws. Their firearms are procured illegally, and despite existing controls. What this means is clear: current gun control laws are inefficient at curbing crime.

To a Liberal or anyone else advocating for more government control over our lives, these are very inconvenient facts that are better ignored. Instead, the Liberals have found the perfect recipe. They will allow big cities to ban firearms. How exactly they will achieve this remains to be seen and would likely be a precedent in Canadian law. One possibility is that Parliament will pass legislation enabling municipalities to create gun-free zones on their territory, or even decree that the entire municipality is a gun-free zone. On the other hand, the federal legislation would make it a criminal offence to possess certain firearms in such a gun-free zone. This is unusual, since municipalities are creatures of the provinces, and their powers are limited to dealing

with local matters. Whether existing owners will be grandfathered remains to be seen. If they are, will they be grandfathered only for guns that they already own, or for all firearms? What will happen to an out-of-town person who may need to travel through a municipality that is a gun-free zone to go hunting, or on his way to a range? Why would criminals suddenly comply with gun-free zones, when they already disobey every existing gun control law? None of these questions have been answered, simply because no one asked them.

One thing is certain: criminals who already disobey existing gun laws will not suddenly comply with municipal gun bans. The only persons who will be affected will be hunters, sport shooters, collectors and firearms businesses. In the course of his victory speech, Justin Trudeau mentioned “getting guns off our streets” as part of his future government’s action items. Of course, to anyone who is uneducated about the state of current gun laws, this statement comes across as an intent to end or curb the use of firearms by criminals. Unfortunately, what it really means is that the government intends to disarm law-abiding citizens, while leaving the criminals alone. ❗



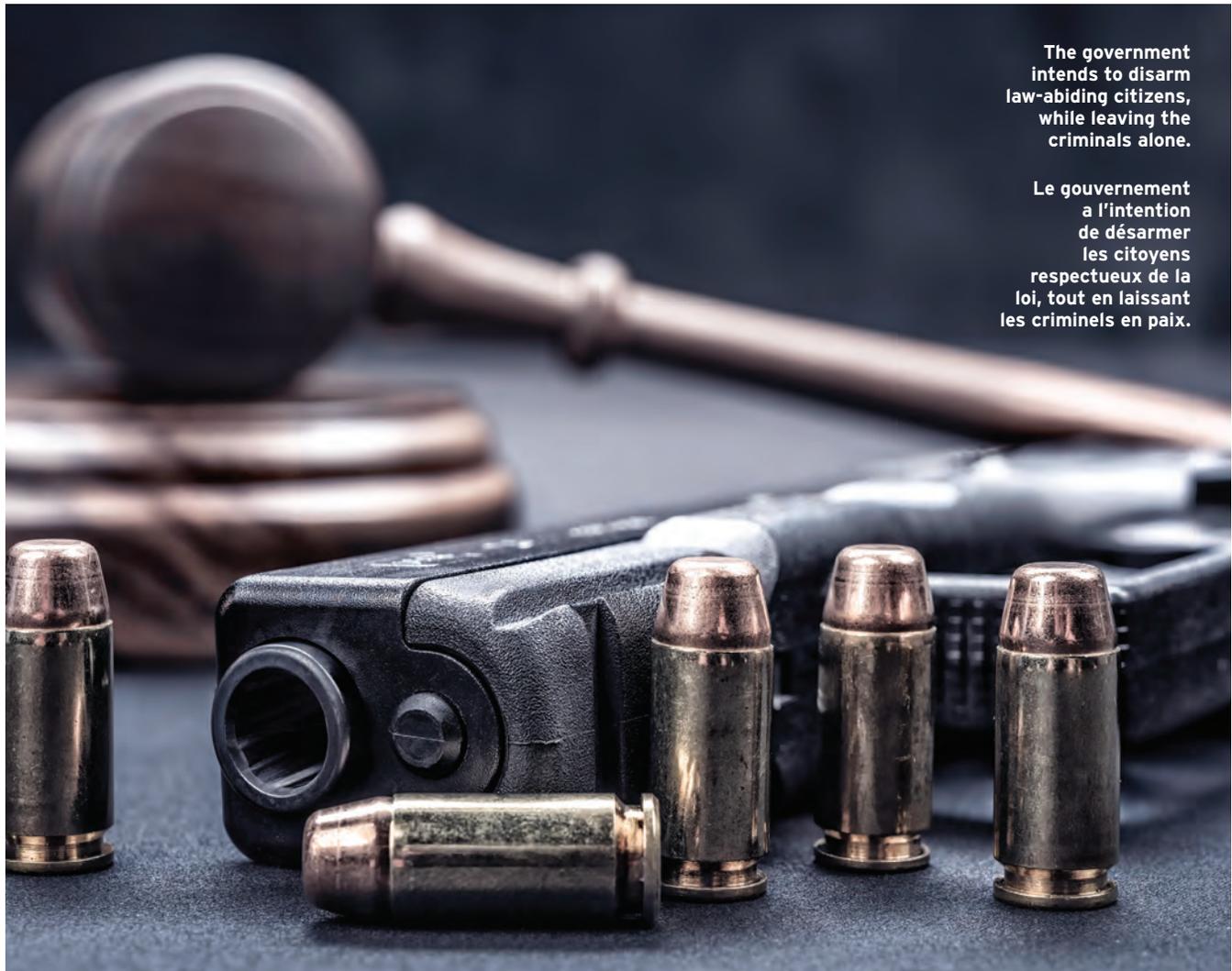
Nathaniel Milijour



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Promesses électorales libérales et armes à feu



The government intends to disarm law-abiding citizens, while leaving the criminals alone.

Le gouvernement a l'intention de désarmer les citoyens respectueux de la loi, tout en laissant les criminels en paix.

Alors, j'avais tort ! J'étais convaincu que les libéraux avaient été tellement affaiblis par divers scandales qu'ils se dirigeaient vers une défaite certaine. Les choses se sont avérées être « un peu différentes ». Le 21 octobre 2019, les libéraux ont été réélus, mais avec une minorité de sièges. Qu'est-ce que cela signifie pour les propriétaires d'armes à feu ?

MISE EN ŒUVRE DU PROJET DE LOI C-71

Comme je l'ai écrit il y a quelques mois, la mise en œuvre intégrale du projet de loi C-71 dépend de l'adoption de règlements qui, en effet, en vertu de la Loi

sur les armes à feu doivent être soumis au Parlement avant d'entrer en vigueur. Cela n'a pas pu se produire pendant les vacances d'été ou la campagne électorale. Cependant, je m'attends à ce que les libéraux agissent rapidement pour déposer et adopter ces règlements, une fois que le Parlement se réunira de nouveau.

PROMESSES ÉLECTORALES LIBÉRALES

Le 18 septembre 2019, les libéraux ont annoncé leur programme en matière d'armes à feu. Il y a deux aspects principaux à ce programme : (i) l'interdiction et le rachat des soi-disant « fusils d'assaut »

et (ii) permettre aux municipalités de créer des « zones franches d'armes à feu ». J'en discuterai dans cet ordre.

INTERDICTION ET RACHAT DE CE QUE L'ON APPELLE LES « FUSILS D'ASSAUT »

Cette promesse électorale particulière du Parti libéral est apparue pour la première fois dans la plate-forme électorale libérale de 2015, sans toutefois l'aspect de « rachat ». Ce dernier pourrait très bien être le résultat de la récente initiative du gouvernement néo-zélandais, à la suite des événements de l'hiver dernier à Christchurch, en Nouvelle-Zélande. Pour faire une histoire courte, à

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la suite des massacres de Christchurch, le parlement néo-zélandais a adopté une loi interdisant toutes les carabines semi-automatiques à percussion centrale, y compris les armes de chasse communes telles que la Browning Bar. La loi néo-zélandaise prévoit une période d'amnistie de six (6) mois pour que les propriétaires s'y conforment et remettent leurs carabines nouvellement interdites à la police. Pendant la période d'amnistie, les propriétaires qui se conforment volontairement reçoivent une indemnisation d'un montant fixé par la réglementation, qui peut ou non être représentatif de la juste valeur marchande. Après la période d'amnistie de six mois, toute personne en possession d'une arme à feu interdite est passible de confiscation sans indemnisation et de poursuites criminelles. À la date à laquelle j'écris cette chronique, le niveau de conformité en Nouvelle-Zélande est d'environ 30 %, à un mois de la fin de la période d'amnistie. Le gouvernement néo-zélandais n'a pas encore annoncé comment il s'attaquera à cette situation. Il reste à voir si le gouvernement canadien suivra la voie tracée par le régime néo-zélandais.

Une question qui se pose est de savoir ce que signifient exactement les libéraux, lorsqu'ils parlent de « fusils d'assaut »? Un véritable « fusil d'assaut », par définition, est une carabine capable de tirer une cartouche intermédiaire, avec une capacité de tir sélective (c'est-à-d. entièrement automatique ou semi-automatique, à l'option de l'utilisateur), avec un chargeur amovible pour un rechargement rapide. Tout d'abord, les véritables fusils d'assaut sont déjà des armes à feu prohibées, un fait que les libéraux omettent commodément de mentionner, au cours de toute discussion sur le contrôle des armes à feu. Les rares personnes qui ont un droit acquis de posséder de telles armes à feu ne peuvent même pas les utiliser à un champ de tir ou les sortir légalement de leur lieu d'entreposage sans autorisation de transport délivrée par un contrôleur des armes à feu. Selon toute vraisemblance, lorsque les libéraux parlent de fusils d'assaut, ils signifient soit « arme à feu noire qui fait peur », ou toute carabine semi-automatique qui fut

utilisée par les forces armées d'un pays quelconque, au cours de l'histoire. Il reste à voir si le gouvernement canadien suivra la voie tracée par la Nouvelle-Zélande et ira jusqu'à interdire toutes les carabines semi-automatiques à percussion centrale. C'est là une possibilité distincte.

ARMES À FEU ET MUNICIPALITÉS

Permettre aux municipalités d'interdire toutes ou certains types d'armes à feu sur leur territoire est un thème populaire depuis les meurtres survenus sur la rue Danforth, à Toronto, il y a quelques années. La récente vague de fusillades par des gangs de Toronto, commodément qualifiée par les médias traditionnels de « violence armée », n'a fait qu'alimenter le débat qui fait rage.

Bien sûr, dans tout ce non-sens, personne ou presque au sein des médias traditionnels n'a jugé utile de mentionner que la possession d'une arme à feu sans permis est déjà un crime au Canada en vertu de l'article 91 du Code criminel. Personne n'a mentionné non plus que les personnes qui sont légalement autorisées à posséder des armes de poing ne sont pas autorisées à les utiliser à un endroit autre qu'un champ de tir autorisé ou à les transporter dans la rue. Bien sûr, ni le tireur de Danforth St., ni les nombreux membres de gangs, qui se tirent dessus dans les grandes villes du Canada alors qu'ils se battent pour le contrôle du lucratif trafic de drogue et d'autres activités criminelles, ne se conforment aux lois canadiennes actuelles sur les armes à feu. Leurs armes à feu sont achetées illégalement, et en dépit des contrôles existants. Ce que cela signifie est clair, les lois actuelles sur le contrôle des armes à feu sont inefficaces pour lutter contre la criminalité.

Pour un libéral ou toute autre personne qui milite pour un plus grand contrôle gouvernemental sur nos vies, ce sont là des faits gênants qu'il est préférable de ne pas mentionner. Au lieu de cela, les libéraux croient avoir trouvé la recette parfaite. Ils permettront aux grandes villes d'interdire les armes à feu. Il reste à voir comment ils y parviendront. Peu importe, il s'agira d'une première en droit canadien. Une possibilité est que

le Parlement adopte une loi permettant aux municipalités de créer des « zones exemptes d'armes à feu » sur leur territoire, ou même de décréter que toute une municipalité est une « zone exempte d'armes à feu ». D'autre part, la loi fédérale ferait de la possession de certaines armes à feu dans une « zone exempte d'armes à feu » une infraction criminelle. C'est inhabituel, puisque les municipalités sont des créatures des provinces, et leurs pouvoirs se limitent à traiter des questions locales. Reste à savoir si les propriétaires actuels auront des droits acquis. Si tel est le cas, ces droits acquis seront ils uniquement pour les armes à feu qu'ils possèdent déjà, ou pour toutes les armes à feu? Qu'advient-il d'une personne de l'extérieur de la municipalité qui pourrait avoir besoin de traverser une municipalité qui est une zone exempte d'armes à feu pour aller chasser, ou en route vers un champ de tir? Pourquoi les criminels se conformeraient-ils soudainement aux zones exemptes d'armes à feu, alors qu'ils désobéissent par ailleurs à toutes les lois existantes sur le contrôle des armes à feu. Aucune de ces questions n'a reçu de réponse, simplement parce que personne ne les a posées.

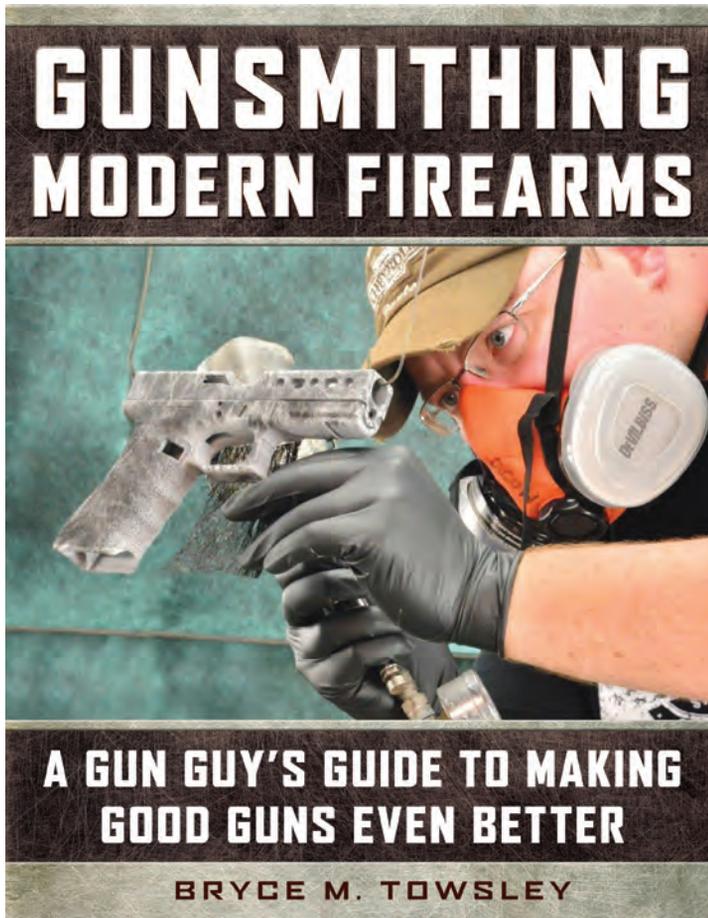
Une chose est certaine, les criminels qui désobéissent déjà aux lois existantes sur les armes à feu ne se conformeront pas soudainement aux interdictions municipales d'armes à feu. En réalité, les seules personnes qui seront touchées seront les chasseurs, les tireurs sportifs, les collectionneurs et les entreprises d'armes à feu. Au cours de son discours de victoire, Justin Trudeau a mentionné vouloir « sortir les armes de nos rues » dans le cadre des mesures qui seront prises par son futur gouvernement. Bien sûr, pour quiconque n'est pas instruit au sujet de l'état des lois actuelles sur les armes à feu, cette déclaration apparaît comme une intention de mettre fin ou de freiner l'utilisation d'armes à feu par les criminels. Malheureusement, ce que cela signifie vraiment, c'est que le gouvernement a l'intention de désarmer les citoyens respectueux de la loi, tout en laissant les criminels en paix. 



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

A Gun Guy's Guide To Making Good Guns Even Better



Author Bryce Towsley wrote *Gunsmithing Modern Firearms* to inspire readers to develop their skills and understanding of firearms beyond the level of simply following instructions.

When working with guns, Towsley wants the reader to understand what they are doing and its relevance to the entire job. After all, hundreds of small steps may be required to complete a project, and numerous tools, including many specifically designed for gun work, are used throughout this book. Towsley openly shares his wisdom, humour and experience gained after decades as one of America's foremost experts on firearms. This combination enables readers to feel as if they are watching the process

from a stool beside his workbench.

Skills are taught through actual projects the author has completed in his shop. The first section of the book, comprised of 11 chapters, deals with simpler projects which can be completed without using a lathe. As an example, the detailed process involved in turning a war surplus Mosin-Nagant into a viable long-range tactical rifle is shared in 17 pages of easy-to-read text and high-resolution colour photographs.

The remainder of the first section contains projects which reflect the diverse interests of the firearms community. Converting a Remington Model 700 SPS from the standard 308 Winchester to the legendary 358 Winchester will garner the

attention of many hunters. Those preferring handguns will enjoy *Silk Purse Glock*, in which the author modifies a Glock 22 in 40 S&W extensively, including to fire 357 Sig ammunition. Enthusiasts of modern sporting rifles will enjoy *Building an AR-15* from parts.

Section Two: Advanced Projects starts by suggesting it may be time for you to consider buying a lathe and maybe even a milling machine. Towsley suggests your only regret may be not buying these machines sooner, as their acquisition allows the amateur gunsmith to further develop skills and attempt a wider variety of challenging operations. He then walks the reader through several projects using these machine tools.

Readers will not likely set out to duplicate demonstration projects. Instead, each will probably have a firearm they wish to personalize by modifying it in some way. *Gunsmithing Modern Firearms* provides valuable advice, based on Towsley's years of experience, to plan and execute the steps required to complete your own special project.

Pete Brownell, the grandson of Brownell's founder and third generation of his family to be a gunsmith, respects Bryce Towsley as a long-time shooter, hunter, competitor, author and gunsmith. Brownell states simply, "You'll like this book." *Gunsmithing Modern Firearms* lists at \$33.99 CDN and would make a great addition to the workbench of any firearm enthusiast interested in learning more about gunsmithing. 

Title: Gunsmithing Modern Firearms

Author: Bryce M. Towsley

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