

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2020

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

This issue's cover has a fittingly dark theme to it, as it shows a western turkey vulture cruising a storm front, looking for something dead to become its next meal. The storm clouds and this legendary harbinger of death symbolize the fight Canadian gun owners find themselves in. The storm is here, and our enemies are hovering, waiting for firearms ownership in this country to die a slow, incremental death. To the informed, this isn't a surprise. It's the fight for life we've been expecting, and which we will win. We look forward to the day when our cover will feature a sun rising into a clear sky, without a vulture in sight. Thanks to Lowell Strauss for this bit of image poetry captured on the Saskatchewan plains. 



Canadian Firearms Journal

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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Confusion Surrounding New Gun Laws



The old cliché about transitioning from the frying pan into the fire seems to fit the situation gun owners find themselves in these days. There we were, navigating our way through a world-wide pandemic by caring for ourselves, our families and our neighbours, when the government dumped us into the fire. The only thing I can think of which would rate higher on the scale of political opportunism is if the Liberals were to call an election before they have to raise taxes to pay for all the benefits being handed out these days. But then, I expect that call will occur this fall.

As this issue goes to print, the level of confusion surrounding the May 1 Order in Council is still at a fever pitch. Yes, we know lots of modern sporting rifles are banned, but other similar rifles aren't, and there's no clear reasoning why the difference. We

know 8 gauge and larger shotguns are prohibited, but the 10 and 12-gauge models remain in a grey area. It's clear that some large-calibre rifles are now illegal, but we don't know where the line is or how to measure a firearm to determine if it's "capable" of reaching the evil 10,000 joule energy limit. It's also clear some of the black powder cannons used by hobbyists and re-enactors are now prohibited, but some might be exempt as antiques and some might fall under the "designed for signalling" exemption in Section 84(3) of the Criminal Code. Do you want to bet a criminal record and perhaps a prison term that your interpretation of this confusion is the same one a judge would arrive at?

And then there's the issue of compensation in the promised buy-back program, as well as the uncertainty about what the promised grandfa-

thering will look like. Never mind the promise (threat) to allow cities to ban handguns from inside their borders, as soon as legislatively possible. The uncertainties and the level of confusion are both enormous. At least one thing is constant and unchanging, it's the cry of the anti-gun lobby that this is "just a good first step." Which, notably, is what they said of all the other gun laws passed in the last 40 years. That recurring phrase makes it clear their final step is complete civilian disarmament.

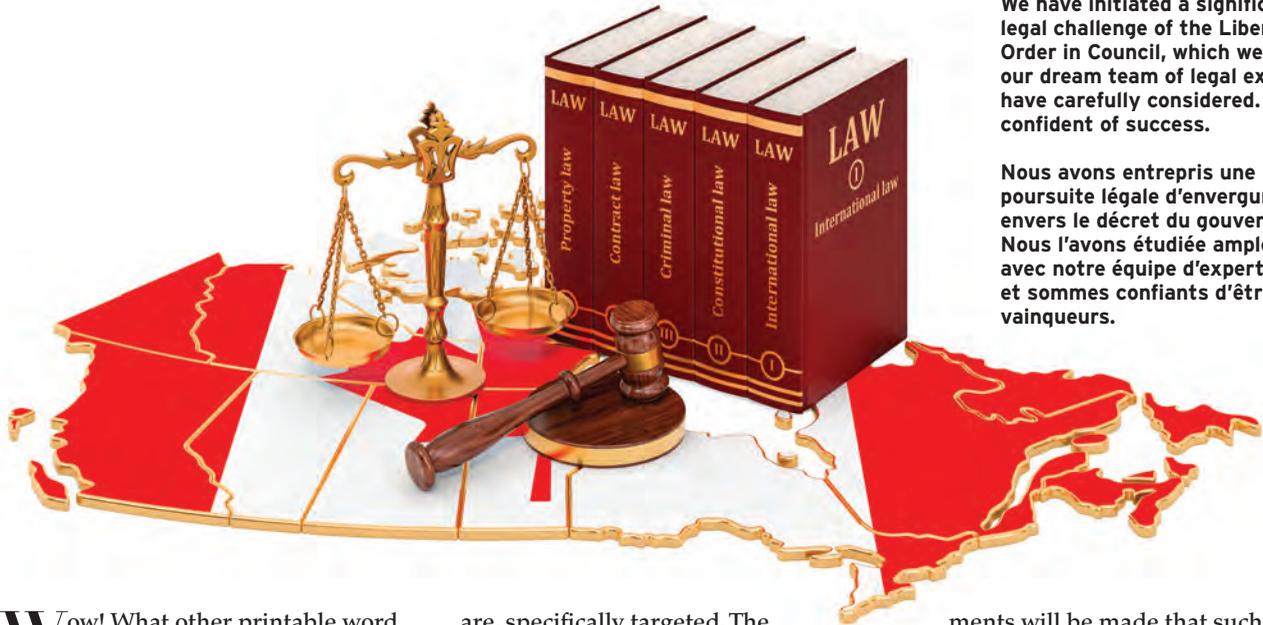
However, the shooting ranges are reopening from the COVID-19 shut-down as I write this, and the weather is turning summery. So, I refuse to let the politicians dictate my mood. I'm going to do some shooting myself, and introduce some new people to the gun sports as well. Recruiting new shooters who vote is one effective strategy for defeating this government. 



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Confusion By Design



We have initiated a significant legal challenge of the Liberal Order in Council, which we, and our dream team of legal experts, have carefully considered. We are confident of success.

Nous avons entrepris une poursuite légale d'envergure envers le décret du gouvernement. Nous l'avons étudiée amplement avec notre équipe d'experts et sommes confiants d'être vainqueurs.

Wow! What other printable word is there to describe the Trudeau Liberal's far-reaching grand assault on the property and rights of millions of Canadian firearms owners and businesses. Many ordinary semi and bolt-action rifles, as well as shotguns, are now prohibited, and their ownership will not be grandfathered. The hallmark of the Liberal gun grab is confusion by design. We have been receiving information from inside sources about the extent of the Liberal's plan for civil disarmament, but it has been so wide sweeping that we thought it to be information intended to embarrass us. Unfortunately, our worst fears appear well-founded.

The plan, as pieced together from several anonymous sources within the government, bureaucracy and even the Liberal party is to first use Orders in Council to enact a sweeping ban of semi-automatic firearms, and anything else which can be claimed to have even a slim relationship to military appearance. The cultures of sport shooting and historical re-enactment were to be, and

are, specifically targeted. The trigger for such a ban was to be, as we have seen, a high-profile shooting event. The Nova Scotia rampage fit the bill nicely in keeping with the left-wing philosophy of never letting a good crisis go to waste.

Phase two is push a forlorn hope of a municipal handgun ban. This is really a distraction ploy, as it is well suspected in the Liberal cabal that such an effort will fail in the face of uncooperative municipalities, premiers, and problems with the division of federal and provincial powers in the Constitution Act. The real goal is the full ban of handguns, as previously articulated by former Liberal leader Paul Martin. Again, the initiation of such a measure is to be triggered by a convenient shooting event, which historically tends to ramp up public demand to "do something," even if such support is soft and fades quickly in the face of accurate information.

After that, or perhaps concurrently, the next phase is to bring in a program of central storage of firearms. The argu-

ments will be made that such a measure will remove firearms from homes, and thus prevent suicides and domestic violence with firearms. There won't be any attention given to the facts that suicidal individuals are not deterred by a lack of method, and that less than one percent of domestic violence incidents involve firearms of any kind. Once most firearms are under such control, the next measure will be to deny access to them, except for limited identified groups, such as Aboriginal people with treaty rights related to firearms and hunting and some other limited exceptions. Voila, game, set and match, and they will have all the guns.

Do you want that in our "free" country? I sure don't.

No mention that firearms sports are more popular than hockey. No indication that self-defense is a legitimate right and reason for use of a firearm. No concern about the direct attack on our culture and the deeply personal attack on you and your property, as well as upon the livelihoods of millions of people who engage in business

activities related to the ownership and use of firearms, not to mention their sale and repair. Make no mistake, this is about destroying the robust firearms culture that exists in Canada and has existed here from the very beginning. We have already heard the preliminary jabs that those who support firearms rights should move away, and that they aren't really Canadian, or that this isn't the US and there is no place for the NRA here. You and I know those attacks are complete fabrications which are intended to divide and conquer us. We are Canadians, and we aren't going anywhere – if you move, they win.

The NFA is fighting back, both politically and legally. We are already preparing for the next election, which could be any time, but most likely this coming fall. We need you to be assertive, even aggressive, in fighting for your rights. Many of you have told me that you will not give up your property,

and if you really mean it, then you need to get political in a big way. Join and support the Conservative Party. It is the only party positioned to defeat the Liberals and to roll back decades of failed liberal and red Tory gun laws. Make sure they know why you are there, and that you demand they review and repeal these over 50 years of bad laws. If you are a member, participate in the leadership election and support only those candidates who will support you. Be wary of any candidate who has previously advocated for more control rather than less. Such sentiments are deep seated and claims of a change of heart are not to be trusted.

We have initiated a significant legal challenge of the Liberal Order in Council, which we, and our dream team of legal experts, have carefully considered. We are confident of success. We have a solid team of lawyers with much experience related to the

complex aspects of this area of law, and we have a strong client who can bring forward a compelling account of her situation. Be wary of supporting other legal ventures designed for show that have limited chance of success. The last thing we need are case losses that damage our efforts, or otherwise set bad precedents. Some challenges will only cause damage, and they should not be supported. We are in this battle to win. It is not about ego, showmanship or silly sandbox games. This is the fight of our generation and we must not squander our resources on false hopes.

It is essential – no, critical – that you contribute at NFA.ca to support our political and legal efforts. The need has never been more serious, nor the consequences of defeat so dire. Go to NFA.ca now and make your contribution to this public and personal fight. Thank you for your efforts, we could not do anything without your support. 



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Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Conçu pour créer de la confusion

Wow! Il n'y a aucune autre parole qui est permise d'imprimer pour décrire l'assaut de grande envergure commis par les Libéraux de Trudeau envers les droits et les biens de millions de propriétaires d'armes à feu. Plusieurs carabines ordinaires à verrou et semi automatiques et plusieurs fusils sont désormais prohibés. De plus, leur possession ne sera pas protégée par une clause grand-père. La marque de commerce de cette saisie d'armes par les Libéraux est qu'elle est conçue pour créer de la confusion. Nous recevons régulièrement des renseignements de nos sources internes à propos de l'ampleur du plan Libéral en regard du désarmement civil, mais jusqu'à date nous pensions qu'elles nous étaient transmises avec l'intention de nous embarrasser. Malheureusement nos pires craintes sont bien fondées.

Le plan, selon plusieurs sources anonymes à l'intérieur du Gouvernement, des fonctionnaires et du Parti Libéral lui-même est qu'en premier lieu toutes les armes semi-automatiques qui peuvent quelque peu soit-il ressembler à une arme militaire soient prohibées par Décret. La culture du tir sportif et des reconstitutions historiques devaient être et sont spécifiquement visés. L'élément déclencheur de ces interdictions devait être, et l'a été comme nous l'avons vu, une fusillade hautement médiatisée. Le massacre en Nouvelle-Ecosse fut idéal comme outil de la gauche, dont leur philosophie est de ne jamais gaspiller une tragédie pour arriver à leurs fins.

En deuxième lieu, ils vont essayer désespérément d'instaurer une interdiction des armes de poings dans les municipalités. Ceci n'est qu'une distraction, puisque même la cabale Libérale soupçonne que plusieurs municipalités et premiers ministres provinciaux ne seront pas coopératifs et que le projet échouera. De plus, ce projet heurte le partage des pouvoirs à plusieurs niveau selon la Constitu-



If allowed to continue, the Liberal Party will systematically destroy Canada's firearms culture.

Si on les laisse faire, le Parti Libéral va détruire, et ce de manière systématique, la culture Canadienne des armes à feu.

tion Canadienne. Leur objectif réel est d'interdire complètement les armes de poings tel que Paul Martin, ancien chef du Parti Libéral l'avait promis. Et comme d'habitude l'élément déclencheur sera la prochaine fusillade, dont l'effet prévisible auprès de la population sera de demander à l'État de "faire quelque chose" même si cette demande fléchit lorsque les informations véridiques à propos de la fusillade sont publiées.

Par la suite, ou concurrentement, la 3e phase sera d'instaurer un programme d'entreposage central des armes à feu. Leur argument sera qu'il faut retirer les armes à feu des résidences pour prévenir les suicides et la violence conjugale avec les armes à feu. Aucune attention ne sera portée aux faits que ceux qui veulent se suicider ne sont pas découragés par la perte d'un moyen pour le faire et que moins de un pour-cent d'événements de violence conjugale sont commis par quelqu'arme à feu qu'il soit. Une fois que toutes les armes à feu seront contrôlées de cette manière

il ne restera qu'à empêcher leur accès, à l'exception de certains groupes bien identifiés comme les autochtones dont l'accès aux armes est protégé par des traités pour qu'ils puissent chasser pour se nourrir et d'autres exceptions très limitées. Et voilà! Le tour est joué, ils auront toutes les armes à feu.

Est-ce que c'est ça que vous voulez dans votre pays "libre"? Moi c'est sûr que non!

Aucune mention que les sports de tir sont plus populaires que le hockey. On ne parle jamais que l'usage d'une arme à feu est légitime pour défendre sa propre vie. Personne ne se préoccupe de l'attaque directe sur notre culture et des attaques profondément personnelles sur vous, vos biens et sur le gagne pain de millions de personnes qui ont des commerces reliés à la possession, l'usage, la vente et les réparations d'armes à feu. N'ayez aucun doute, leur objectif est de détruire la culture robuste en regard des armes à feu qui existe présentement au Canada

et qui existe depuis le début. Nous avons subis les attaques préliminaires qui demandent à ceux qui appuient les droits des armes à feu de déménager, qu'ils ne sont pas vraiment Canadiens ou bien que nous ne sommes pas aux États-Unis et que le NRA n'a pas sa place ici. Nous savons tous que ces attaques sont de pures fabrications et qu'elles sont conçues pour nous diviser et nous conquérir. Nous sommes Canadiens et nous sommes ici pour rester - si vous déménagez, ils ont gagné.

L'ACAF se défend politiquement et juridiquement. Nous nous préparons pour la prochaine élection qui peut arriver n'importe quand, mais probablement cet automne. Vous devez défendre vos droits de manière convaincante voire même agressivement. Plusieurs d'entre vous m'avez dit que vous ne remettiez pas vos biens aux autorités. Si vous êtes vraiment sincères vous devez agir politiquement avec grande insistance. Devenez membres du Parti Conservateur, c'est le seul parti

capable de défaire les Libéraux et de réformer des décennies de mauvaises lois créées par les Libéraux et les Progressistes Conservateurs. Assurez vous qu'ils sachent pourquoi vous êtes devenus membres et que vous exigez qu'ils abrogent ces mauvaises lois qui existent depuis 50 ans. Si vous êtes membres, participez dans l'élection du chef et appuyez seulement les candidats qui agiront en votre faveur. Soyez méfiant de tout candidat qui a invoqué la nécessité d'augmenter le contrôle des armes dans le passé. Ceci sont des sentiments profonds et s'ils affirment avoir changé d'idée, vous ne devez pas leur faire confiance.

Nous avons entrepris une poursuite d'envergure contre le Décret des Libéraux. Notre excellente équipe d'experts a profondément étudié la cause et nous sommes sûrs de réussir. Nous avons une équipe d'avocats chevronnés, ayant beaucoup d'expérience dans la complexité de cette loi et avons une cliente solide qui pourra fournir un

témoignage convaincant de ce qu'elle vit. Soyez méfiants d'appuyer d'autres initiatives légales qui ne sont que des coups d'éclats et n'ont peu de chances de réussir. Il faut éviter à tout prix de créer des poursuites perdues qui peuvent nous nuire ou bien qui peuvent produire des jurisprudences hostiles à notre cause. Certaines poursuites causeront seulement du tort et ne doivent pas être encouragées. Nous sommes dans cette lutte pour la gagner. Ceci n'a rien à voir avec l'ego, le tape à l'oeil ou les jeux d'enfants. Ceci est la bataille de notre génération, nos ressources ne doivent pas être gaspillées sur de faux espoirs.

Il est essentiel, non c'est critique, que vous fassiez des dons à NFA.ca pour aider à financer nos poursuites juridiques et notre implication politique. Cela n'a jamais été si sérieux ni les conséquences d'une défaite si graves. Allez à NFA.ca et contribuez à cette lutte publique et personnelle. Merci pour vos efforts, nous ne pourrions rien faire sans votre appui. 

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Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

The Only Solution



The biggest target of this OIC is the AR-15, demonstrating the shallowness of the Liberal actions.

The Liberals have prohibited, by Order in Council (OIC), over 1,500 firearms of a wide variety of types and configurations.

Stripped of their majority government in the last election, the Liberals managed to eke out a minority government from ridings won in big-city Canada last November. With the ability to pass legislation without question or opposition taken away from them, they have employed the most insidious and slimy tools at their disposal to ban and confiscate your property, the OIC. At the time of this writing, the OIC list is still evolving and changing as the Liberals consult with the Coalition for Gun Control on just what property they want confiscated from you.

The OIC is so fantastically encompassing, the Liberals have banned ICBMs, RPGs, nuclear missiles, 12-gauge shotguns and flare guns. Some by make and model based on looks, and some by bore diameter. Over the past week, I've received hundreds of e-mails from Canadians asking just what the real details are. Does this mean shotguns are banned? Nobody knows for sure at this point. Ask the minister of public safety. Maybe he knows?

Or maybe he doesn't.

This is one of the unintended, or maybe intended, consequences when the Coalition for Gun Control writes your OIC for you.

The biggest target of this OIC is the AR-15, and that demonstrates the utter shallowness of the Liberal's actions. This rifle has bounced back and forth between the non-sensical non-restricted and restricted classifications for over 40 years, a target of the ideological whims of politicians and bureaucrats. It is the modern sporting rifle used for hunting and target shooting in most of the world. It is the rifle used in Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) and provincial rifle association competitions. These will be no more under the Liberal plan.

As I have said before, the AR-15 is a symbol to the civil disarmament lobby of the type of firearms they don't want Canadians to have. And therefore, it has become a symbol for us, the No Compromise symbol NFA members are so familiar with now. Of course, a variety of other semi-auto rifles were targeted as well, principally the Ruger Mini-14 and variants, and semi-auto M14 clones.

The numbers of non-restricted, unreg-

istered firearms given by the Liberals regarding targeted firearms are ludicrous. For example, the Liberals guesstimate there are only about 16,000 Ruger Mini-14s in Canada. But this popular sporting rifle has been imported in the tens of thousands per year since the mid 1970s. For semi-auto M14 clones, the Liberals guesstimate about 6,000. These firearms have been imported in the tens of thousands per year since the 1980s. Anyone with an even remote understanding of these firearms knows there at least 10 times the number claimed by the Liberals in Canada.

So where did those figures come from? The old Liberal long gun registry. That's right, the old riddled with errors, non-compliance, routinely ignored by Canadians, C-68 gun registry that was finally put out of its misery in 2012. The Liberals only recognize their own numbers, and to hell with their failures, and the rights and property of Canadians along with them. The National Firearms Association estimates over 200,000 firearms are affected, most of them unrestricted and unregistered.

The Liberals have given themselves two years to try and figure out how they are going to confiscate your property.

This is not just a plea to get a license. This is just not an appeal to register your gun. They are actually coming for your rights and property. If you do not comply, you will be prosecuted and maybe even jailed.

This is nothing more or less than Liberal economic and social warfare. Drive Canadian businesses to bankruptcy, cause job loss and government dependence for employees, manufacture criminal offenses. It's grief and misery directed upon their most hated and disdained segment of Canadian society, you and I – Canadians who have complied with firearms laws.

Think hard about that. They are warring against the hard-fought freedoms of previous generations, of our parents and grandparents, undermining the very foundations of English common law which have been enjoyed by Canadians for centuries. And it was done to satisfy the egos of civil disarmament fantasists in the Liberal Party and their supporters in the civil disarmament lobby.

This is a very personal attack on the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians. Please understand that. This

is aimed squarely at you. Again, this is not about public safety, this is about the most aggressive form of virtue signaling, the theft of the rights and property of Canadians.

Another fact the Liberal's move proves beyond a shadow of a doubt is that registration invariably leads to confiscation, which is exactly why the long gun registry failed so badly. Canadians had seen governments register, restrict, prohibit and confiscate firearms in the past, both in Canada and other countries. That observation led to a difficult decision, a decision they should never have been required to make, that if the government wished to make them criminals, they would have to be criminals.

It is sick.

Most of the firearms affected by this OIC will never be surrendered and will remain, out there, in the possession of Canadians who wish to prove their contempt for the Liberal gun grab agenda.

This is Liberal economic and social warfare. Drive Canadian firearms businesses to bankruptcy, cause job loss and government dependence for employees and manufacture criminal offenses. Grief and misery by government edict

further criminalize Canadians who have no business being targeted this way.

By not having the courage to take this before Parliament in legislation, the Liberals essentially admitted defeat on the issue of gun control. They have made an unbelievably bad mistake here, on par with the mistake of the C-68 gun registry. With no clear mandate, there is no righteousness to their actions. The opposite actually, as it lays the undisputable basis for the repeal of this OIC by the next government.

So, I am going to lay it on the line, right here, right now.

The Liberals currently have a minority government in Ottawa. Minority governments usually fall within a couple of years, and another federal election is called, giving that government the opportunity to achieve a majority of seats in Parliament or be defeated and replaced. The Conservative Party of Canada has already committed to undo this OIC and repeal the Liberal Bill C-71 legislation imposed last year.

The only solution to this mess will be the defeat of the Liberals in the next federal election. The Liberals must be defeated in the next federal election.



Nathaniel Milijour



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas & Sybil Kangas

Cap Guns – Icons Of An Era

In this difficult time, governed by a nasty virus and an anti-gun frenzy of unprecedented viciousness, perpetrated by a government focused on cultural and social re-engineering, not punishing criminals, we wish to share a genuine feel-good story. It's about cap guns and their golden age.

The post-Second World War era was a time of prosperity, low crime rates, family unity and the return of soldiers, including our own fathers. Gary's dad built air bases, while Sybil's was an RCAF Squadron Leader. This was also a time of community spirit, and a period during which the cap gun reigned supreme!

THE EARLY DAYS

The history of cap guns goes back to another time of reconstruction, the period after the US Civil War. During this era, firearms manufacturers began producing some of the early types of cap guns to replace firearm sales now lost. Until this time, cap guns did not play an important role as toys. These early models were unsophisticated, cast iron cap guns and firecracker guns of single-shot configuration. They remained popular toys from the 1870s to the start of the 20th century. Then, the dawn of that century marked the emergence of dedicated toy manufacturing and the beginning of the serious cap gun era.

Stevens Toys of Cromwell, Conn., dates to 1843. They began casting firecracker pistols in 1859 and started marketing cap guns in the late 1870s. One of the earliest recognizable toy makers was established in 1894 by John Hubley. He began producing cast iron cap guns in 1909, then in the 1930s production of die cast zinc alloy cap guns started. In the 1950s, Hubley created plastic cap guns until their acquisition by the Lido Toy Co. in 1965. However, they were out of business by the early 1970s.

THE GOLDEN AGE

During the golden age of cap guns (1946



A collection of cap pistols. Top: Smoker 45. Second row: Last Minute P38, Nichols Dynamite Derringer, Kilgour Mountie. Third row: Kilgore Bronco Gary cut down to a two-inch as a hide-out gun, grips broken and lost, Hubley Champ pistol. Bottom: Our daughter's Daisy Mustang 49 pocket Colt.

to the early 1960s), there were many companies marketing cap guns. Buzz Henry Cap Guns, manufactured by the Leslie-Henry Cap Gun Co., made cap guns for many distributors. Daisy Air Rifles, who had been in business since 1882, began to market cap guns by various makers in their own name. Other familiar names included Esquire Toy Cap Guns, Halco Cap Guns, Kenton

Cap Guns, Marx Cap Guns and, of course, Mattel Toys. Some were distributors and merchandisers only, marketing cap guns in their own name which were manufactured by others.

Then there were cap gun producers. One of the best remembered was Kilgore Mfg., formed in 1912. They were the largest manufacturer, creating cast iron and die cast zinc cap guns.



Sybil in her Roy Rogers best.

Another of the larger producers was the Nichols Co., started by Talley and Lewis Nichols in 1946 and located in Pasadena, Texas. Nichols cap guns featured sophisticated revolvers with caps placed in cartridge cases that were loaded into the cylinder. In 1950, their Stallion 45 was introduced. It was a cap gun sensation! The Stallion 45 was a full-sized 1873 Colt-style revolver with a revolving cylinder, proper loading gate and two-piece cartridge case and bullet that contained the caps completely so smoke would come out of the barrel. Gary was one of the first owners of a Stallion 45 and the envy of all the cap gun kids.

Another full-sized Colt-style cap gun introduced in 1950 was the Smoker 45 created by Product Engineering Co. of Portland, Oregon. Gary was one of the first to have one of those as well, and he still owns it today. The Smoker 45 was unique in that you poured flour in the barrel and when you pulled the trigger the cap made a bang and the barrel made a puff of "smoke."

Of the variety of caps used, the most popular were the perforated roll caps which you loaded into your gun, providing the junior cowboy with a 100-shot revolver, just like the 'B' western guns. There were round caps fitted to the Nichols-style bullets and greenie stick-m-caps to fit in the Mattel Toy Co. "Shootin' Shells," as well as disc caps to fit on the back of cylinders.

Our friend Jay after church, white shirt, bow tie, gunned up with his Kilgore Bronco.



HEROES WITH GUNS

The matinee idols of the late 1930s and 1940s 'B' western movies fueled the cap gun trade. Going to the Saturday morning serials was a standard social gathering in the 1940s and early 1950s, with boys and girls dressing in their favourite hero's cowboy outfits. The 'B' movie detectives were also great motivators for cap gun sales. Then television took over and our heroes moved to the small screen. The Lone Ranger, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy made the move. But a new style of show was also created, including Bonanza, Gunsmoke, Have Gun Will Travel, Lawman, Bat Masterson, Maverick, Cheyenne, Rawhide and F Troop. Then there were the popular female westerns, Big Valley with Barbara Stanwick and the Annie Oakley series. The television detective and police shows were the next favourite genre. Programs like Dragnet, Highway Patrol, Mike Hammer, Boston Blackie, Richard Diamond, The Thin Man, Peter Gunn and Hawaiian Eye rounded out our evening entertainment.

When the 1960s began to unfold with its social unrest and military issues, the cowboy idols began to fade. By the mid '60s, westerns were at their lowest ebb. The toy companies began to merge with other makers, many simply closing their operations. Others continued with limited production. By the late 1960s, the sun went down on the golden age of cap guns.

Gary and his friend Tap playing cowboys.



GROWING UP WITH CAP GUNS

The golden age era was a grand one to grow up in. At age seven, Gary's first cap guns were a pair of Kilgore six-shooters, while his brother's pocket pistol was a Kilgore cast iron Mountie dating to the 1930s. Gary then acquired a Canadian-made P38 manufactured by Last Minute Industries, St. Catharines, Ont. In 1950, his collection grew with a Smoker 45, a Kilgore Bronco six-shooter, Nichols Stallion 45 and a Nichols Dynamite Derringer with its carrier and two bullets. Then he acquired a Hubley Champ cap pistol and, by the age of 12, Gary was one of the best-armed cap gunners in the neighbourhood. By the age of 13, he was bird hunting with his father and his mother had given him an antique revolver, so cap guns faded from his interest. Some were lost, others traded; gone but not forgotten, many were put in a box and Gary still has them. Gary knew of girls who had cap guns, but did not meet one until he was 18, that being Sybil, who was 16. He became Sybil's life partner.

As for Sybil, after the war, her dad became an executive with the Simpson's Department Store chain. In 1949, she hit the jackpot when Dad acquired for her a full Roy Rogers clothing set. This included hat, shirts, pants and pistols in a pre-introduction release of this product to the market by Simpsons. Our daughter also had a cap gun, a Mustang cap gun of 1960s vintage made by BCM and marketed by Daisy.

They aren't real guns, but we think cap guns are an important and pivotal part of our firearms heritage.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Government By Dogma



The recent gun ban has yet again revealed the breathtaking shallowness of our “progressive” government and its commitment to politically correct dogma. Often associated with communist movements, political correctness means exactly what it says: the action or statement is correct in the political sense of conforming to dogma or policy. For the Trudeau government, law-abiding gun owners are a culture that “fetishizes firearms,” making the country inherently more dangerous. The current gun ban is social engineering based on this dogma and masked behind public safety.

GUNS

Firearm’s law is being pursued through incrementalism, which then supports larger changes when the timing is right. In 1977, laws were passed requiring a permit to purchase a firearm. In 1991, the RCMP was no longer required to prove their refusal of a permit was justifiable. In 1995, every law-abiding firearm owner in Canada became a criminal with the Liberal’s passage of the current Firearms Act. With the Firearms Act (C-68), the mere ownership of a firearm became a crime. Since imprisoning millions of law-abiding Canadians who had become criminals by legislative fiat was unworkable, a licensing system was added. However, the foundation

assumption of criminality was legally established based on the mere possession of what had been lawful property.

Accordingly, it is the law-abiding gun owner who must report changes of address or face jail. Persons with prior criminal convictions for violent offenses need not do so because there is no underlying assumption of current illegality despite past behaviour. As a direct consequence of this “technicality,” millions of law-abiding gun owners guilty of no crime are subject to daily background checks and listed in the police information system. While the serial killer in Nova Scotia was not being watched at all. His, prior to the murder, crimes of acquiring illegal guns, a fake police car, etc. passed unnoticed. Thanks to the Liberal decision to criminalize firearms ownership, the entire system of control was directed away from the killer and onto those least likely to commit crimes.

The politically correct dogma of gun prohibition had been served, the reality of criminals and actual crime was ignored. As a direct consequence, the police had neither the resources, nor legal grounds to watch people banned from gun ownership. As a result, when political correctness met reality, the bureaucratic monstrosity of laws for restricting access, storage, carrying, transporting, registering, limiting ammunition availability, gun classifica-

Rifles like the Norinco M305 are apparently prohibited, in part, because of their “modern” design. But only the Liberals could call a 65-year-old design modern.

tion, administrative reporting – I could go on – failed catastrophically and cost 22 people their lives.

MILITARY-STYLE GUNS

The current ban on “assault-style” firearms is a textbook example of dogma based on lies. Trudeau’s justification for the new regulation is that they are unsuitable for civilian use because they pose a serious threat to public safety. In reality, these guns (Blair stated there are 250,000 of these rifles) have been in civilian use since the 1880s and are rarely used in crime. After a century of civilian use, the supposed overwhelming dangers of these guns has simply not materialized except in rare incidents decades apart.

The next lie is the assertion these firearms are primarily designed for military purposes and capable of holding large capacity magazines. This assertion rests on the lie that there is a basic difference in design and function between military and civilian rifles. This is not true and has never been true. Even going back as far as Brown Bess muskets, there has been no difference in basic technology and engineering,

with a lively and continuous interaction between military and civilian designs. Large-capacity magazines are already illegal. Does double illegal make us safer? Military intent is another lie, since these guns, excepting those that were already banned, are civilian versions lacking, amongst other things, the fully automatic capability of modern military rifles.

A third lie is the unstated assumption that we can reduce violent crime by disarming the victims and relying on a firearm control program wholly focused on law-abiding owners. This policy ensures both the safety of the criminal and the helplessness of the victim. This was true during the Montreal Massacre (the police stood outside and let the women die unaided) and during the recent killing in Nova Scotia.

A fourth lie is that this gun ban is the will of the people. Beginning October 2018, an exercise in engagement regarding Reducing Violent Crime: A Dialogue on Handguns and Assault-Style Firearms was conducted, with 134,917 online responses and 1,200 written submissions. Some 77 per cent of respondents did not want further limits to accessing assault weapons (undefined). Some 81 per cent did not want further limits to accessing handguns.

CONFUSION REIGNS

From the very beginning, the Liberals have refused to create a legal definition for what they are banning. The lack of a legal definition for "assault-style firearms" or "tactical/military design" is a profound and fatal flaw in any subsequent legislation. It is debatable how anyone can receive a fair trial over something with no fixed legal definition. The current hodge-podge of "semi-automatic action with sustained rapid-fire capability" (no definition of "rapid fire"), a "tactical/military design with large magazine capacity" (the rifles are civilian variants, not military designs; magazine capacity is a characteristic of the magazine, not the rifle), "are of modern design" (no definition of modern) and "are present in large volumes in the Canadian market" (does this mean unusual semi-autos are safer?) is unworkable.

Considering they are planning to put people in prison for mere posses-

If the bore of a shotgun includes the clearance for a removable choke tube, 12-gauge shotguns with this diameter greater than 20 millimetres might be prohibited. The RCMP says it doesn't. The CBSA seems to say it does. What would a judge say?



sion, this is clearly not adequate. The recent list is fraudulent political theatre, since the category will also apply to "all variants of the principal model, current or future, whether they are expressly listed or not." This "system" will be in continuous disorder as further bans are imposed to prevent manufacturers complying with the law. Another barrier to a fair trial is the lack of a legal definition of "variant." In current practice, "variant" can mean it looks similar despite having a completely different mechanism, or different cartridge, or different origin, or different materials. Or it could be mechanically similar but looks different.

These ever-changing Orders in Council, now creating criminal law, are a reversion to colonial governance, prior to the establishment of elected or responsible government. Our gun laws will henceforth change without notice at random intervals, with no clear way to determine if they are legally consistent with other laws or the Charter. For example, in 1998 the minister of justice tabled amendments to the 1996 gun law that ran to over 1,000 pages. Orders in Council are not widely publicised, often poorly written, unclear or even lacking in a legal basis of enabling legislation. They are not consolidated, meaning the entire published mass is a maze of current, revised, superseded and canceled documents mixed in with all the other Orders in Council.

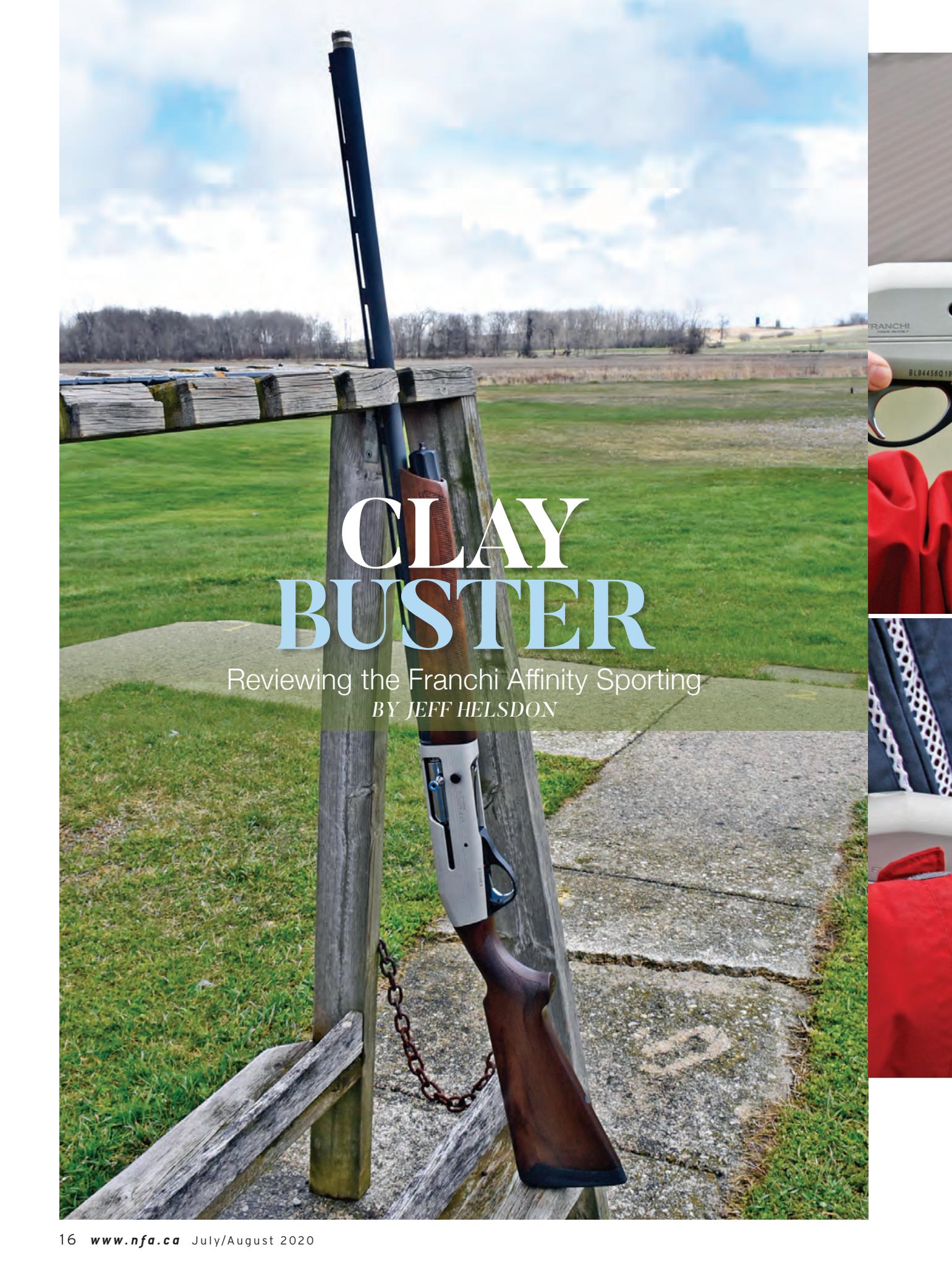
An example of this legal mish mash is the shotgun controversy. Twelve-gauge shotguns have a bore just under the 20 millimetre bore limit. However, the addition of a choke at the muzzle end increases the bore to just over the legal limit. Prohibited designation and

criminality now depend on how the bore is measured. The RCMP are of the opinion that they are legal because they currently measure the bore between the barrel throat and choke. However, the Canadian Border Services Agency defines bore as, "the inside of the barrel, the throat to the muzzle" (memorandum D19-13-2), which makes them prohibited. The OIC says "any firearm with a bore diameter of 20 millimetres or greater" with nothing about how it is measured. The Liberals have given this decision-making power to the RCMP, which amounts to the opinion of some nameless technician. This opinion is then used to control imports and exports, confiscate guns and arrest people. This opinion can only be challenged detail by detail in expensive court cases. The defining Firearms Reference Table, the compendium of the RCMP opinions, has 180,000 different firearms listed and adds about 8,000 a year. It is currently a restricted document unavailable to gun owners.

This mess is now being used to govern the \$5.6 billion sports shooting and hunting industry with 48,000 jobs. It is also how over 2.2 million of the most law-abiding people in Canada are treated. ❗

REFERENCES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FIREARMS REGULATORY CHANGES, MAY 1, 2020 CANADA GAZETTE PART II - OTTAWA, FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2020 - EXTRA VOL. 154, NO. 3 Firearms and Other Weapons.

A Franchi Affinity Sporting shotgun is the central focus, leaning against a weathered wooden post. The background is a vast, green golf course under a cloudy sky. The shotgun has a dark barrel, a silver receiver, and a dark wood stock. A chain is attached to the bottom of the post. The text 'CLAY BUSTER' is overlaid in large, white, serif font, with 'CLAY' in white and 'BUSTER' in light blue. Below it, the subtitle 'Reviewing the Franchi Affinity Sporting' and the author's name 'BY JEFF HELSDON' are in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are three small inset images: a Franchi logo on a metal part, a red fabric, and a black and white patterned fabric.

CLAY BUSTER

Reviewing the Franchi Affinity Sporting
BY JEFF HELSDON



The Franchi Affinity is an inertia-driven semi-automatic, made in the Benelli factory in Italy.



The bolt handle, bolt release button and loading port are all oversized.

Among the new guns introduced every year, there's occasionally a real winner that misses the attention it deserves. The Franchi Affinity Sporting is one of those.

The Affinity is a semi-automatic that quickly gained a reputation for offering a lot of value for the money. A lot of fanfare accompanied its introduction in 2012. While the initial introduction of the Affinity was surrounded with a lot of hype, the Sporting model, which followed a year later, was quieter. That lack of coverage doesn't mean the Affinity Sporting isn't a great clay buster.

My first experience with my trial gun was at the 5-stand range at the Hamilton Gun Club. This is a challenging range, where I would normally choose cylinder or skeet for some shots and full for others. With only one choke, I used improved cylinder.

While I would like to say I broke more than 20 on the first round, no one kept score. I also had some challenges with seeing the targets coming from multiple throwers. A few tips from Isaque Mendes, the club's 5-stand director, solved the problem when reshooting those targets. I can say I crushed the first pair with the gun and shot respectably once I caught on to seeing the tar-

gets. I was thoroughly impressed with how the gun shot, how natural and responsive it was, the good balance and my ability to break clays with it.

I wish I could say I had impressive scores on the trap range as well, but that planned testing was aborted with gun range closures due to COVID-19. I am looking forward to the day when I can shoot trap with it.

THE MECHANICS

The Affinity is an inertia-driven semi-automatic. Therefore, "It's driven by the power into your shoulder," said Kira Bernardo, parts and service technician lead for Franchi importer Stoeger Canada. "If you shoot it and hold it in your hand, it's not going to cycle. It needs something to kick back against."

Getting technical, when the trigger is squeezed, its sets in motion a series of actions. Initially, everything in the gun moves backwards except for the bolt. A curved track in the bolt allows it to move forward, turning the bolt head even more tightly into the barrel extension during ignition. At the same time, the inertia spring between the bolt head and body is compressed, allowing the cartridge drop lever to drop so a shell can move from the magazine to the carrier. As the recoil cycle starts to wind down, the rearward motion of the gun slows and the inertia spring pulls the bolt back. This action unlocks the rotating bolt head, pushing the extractor against the spent shell and allowing it to grab hold of the empty. The bolt continues backwards, ejecting the shell and compressing the recoil spring into the stock. The recoil spring then thrusts the bolt forward, lifting the new shell into the chamber. This whole process taking just a fraction of a second.

Inertia guns have advantages and disadvantages over gas. They don't tame recoil as much, but since the gas isn't driving the cycling of the gun, and exits the barrel instead, they are cleaner to operate, have fewer parts, and don't need as much maintenance. With fewer moving parts and no gas chambers or action bar linkage in the forend, the front of the Affinity is slimmer. Less parts also means less weight, making the Affinity lighter than a typical gas gun, and improving balance.

The recoil pad can be changed to adjust length of pull. It also features a gel insert.



OFFERINGS

The Affinity is available in a wide variety of models. The Affinity 3 and Affinity 3.5 are the core of the line, and are offered in synthetic black, Realtree Max-5 and Mossy Oaks Bottomlands, plus walnut stocks. That numerical designation indicates their maximum shell length of three or 3.5 inches, with the three-inch version available in 12 and 20 gauge. The Compact is offered only in synthetic stock options in three-inch, with the difference being a shorter length of pull on the stock and availability in 20 gauge only. The Companion is a recent addition, with AA-grade walnut and engraving which pays heed to German short-haired pointers. The Elite is available in various configurations with

Cerakote-coated barrels. The Catalyst is designed to fit women, has a walnut Monte Carlo stock and shorter length of pull

THE SPORTING MODEL

Specific to the Sporting, the receiver has a white anodized finish with a chrome-accented bolt and trigger. The only engraving is the manufacturer's name and "Affinity 3 Sporting." The stock and forend are A-grade walnut, with tastefully done checkering and "Franchi" engraved on the forearm. The checkering is a unique but attractive pattern, slightly different than the typical diamond shape, and providing a solid grip.

The matte finish, blued barrel is ported and is chrome lined for easier



The barrel of the gun is ported, and the choke tubes are of the extended variety.

cleaning and longevity. This model is available in a 30-inch barrel 12 gauge and 28-inch barrel 20 gauge. Both the bolt handle and bolt release button are oversized for easier manipulation. The loading port is also oversized.

The TSA recoil pad is unique to the Affinity and differs from the technology used by Franchi's sister guns. The Benelli uses chevrons in the stock to assist with taming recoil, while Beretta semi-automatics rely on a combination of the recoil pad and Kick-Off technology. The Franchi relies on a gel insert in the TSA pad. "If it starts to wear out, you can replace the gel," Bernardo said. "It helps with the longevity."

A variety of shims make the gun adjustable for drop and cast. Length of pull is adjustable by changing the recoil pad, with the standard providing a 14-and-three-eighths-inch length of pull, and optional pads available to increase length of pull to 14 and a half, 14 and three quarters or 15 inches. For those with shorter arms, Bernardo said switching to the Compact or Catalyst stock is an option.

The gun is supplied with extended choke tubes in improved cylinder, modified and full, with Beretta Mobil

thread. Cylinder and improved modified chokes are available aftermarket. The rib is a raised rib, sloping up from the receiver more sharply than on many guns, and it then gently tapers to a red fiber optic front sight. There is no middle bead on this gun, a feature some clay shooters like, and others don't.

Disassembly of the gun begins by unscrewing the ratcheting forend cap, then sliding off the barrel and forend – this is done with the bolt closed. Assembly is simply reversing the procedure. The trigger group is removed by punching out a pin in the receiver. Locking the bolt back is completed by pushing a switch in front of the trigger guard. The ambidextrous safety is behind the trigger.

Shooting 60/40, I found I didn't need to cover birds to break them, something ideal for a clays gun. After finding out the actual percentage from Bernardo, I found she also shoots an Affinity, which, in my estimation, is a vote of confidence for the gun.

COMPARISONS

The Franchi Sporting offers a lot of gun for the money, coming in at \$1,335 MSRP. It is made in the same Italian factory as Benelli semi-automatics.

"Where they really differ is the quality of the wood and the parts," Bernardo said.

For all but the most ardent shooters, any fears about the longevity of the gun can be addressed by the seven-year warranty.

My dream sporting gun is a Beretta A400 Black Sporting, which seems to be the preferred gun for many competitive shooters wanting a semi-auto. How does the Affinity Sporting stack up against its parent company's top gun in the category? It doesn't have the carbon fibre rib or weights on the forend to change the balance – both features that won't make a difference to the average shooter. I've found the 10-millimetre wider rib on the Beretta helps target acquisition, but the eight-millimetre rib on the Franchi Sporting is close, and wider than many field guns.

The Franchi, tipping the scale at 7.1 pounds in 12 gauge, is slightly lighter than the Beretta. Although I didn't shoot as many shells through the Franchi as the Beretta, the recoil seems quite manageable. Costing less than half the price of the Beretta, the Franchi Sporting could end up being the next addition to my gun cabinet. 

DREAM GUNS

A guide to obtaining the perfect rifle

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER





**A Custom Shop Marlin
Modern Hunter 1895.**

Whether you dream in AAA walnut and blued steel, Cerakote and stainless or aluminum and carbon fibre, most gun owners have a custom gun reserved for their future selves – if only in their dreams. Some of us dream of big bore bolt-actions or double rifles in elephant-worthy calibres, hand-built to accompany a dream safari. Others dream of an extraordinarily accurate, blue printed, carefully tuned, fast-twist precision rig settled into a custom chassis. Some of us dream of the lightest possible, most weather-resistant, easily carried mountain rifle. And yet others obsess over a leather-wrapped, laminate-stocked lever action in a thumper cowboy cartridge. Then, some of us want a super accurate custom rimfire that matches our most used centrefire medium bore.

Some of the best-known manufacturers of guns found on the Canadian market offer these kinds of firearms. They typically use one of three levels of custom shop services: full custom, a selection of set custom options, or a finished product branded as custom.

The full custom service is an interactive process where the customer directs details of the gun. This service presents all the options a manufacturer offers, plus anything you can dream up, from exhibition-grade walnut to fuchsia splatter Cerakote. These folks have a team of talented gunsmiths and engravers who hand-assemble your rifle with love and attention. Next are cus-

tom selectors, which allow customers to choose from a fixed set of options. This service walks customers through base model, calibre, level of trim and other choices to get a gun close to their dreams, with some manufacturers offering an incredible collection of options. The resulting gun is a product of your various menu choices. And lastly, some manufacturers offer specially manufactured guns branded as custom shop firearms. This category is one where the manufacturer anticipates a need and fills it with a limited run offering. You have no choice in how the gun is configured.

FIND A KNOWLEDGEABLE RETAILER

Getting the dream rifle you want requires finding a retailer who will work with you and work with the custom shop. In larger stores, there is almost always a gun aficionado behind the counter who knows exactly how to work with your manufacturer to help you get what you want. In smaller stores, it is often the owner who has the relationship with importers and various custom shops. Be prepared to wait six months or longer and be ready to pay at least a deposit when you order. Once the order is executed, you have purchased that gun, even if it is months away.

“It’s hard sometimes to use your imagination to create a product. We have a very in-depth assortment of custom rifles we can offer, but not a lot ▶

of representation in Canada to sell them properly to the end-user," said Hugo Laliberté, SVP with Gravel Agency, importer of Remington and Marlin firearms in Canada. "When you order a Remington or Marlin custom shop rifle, they are built by hand. Once you feel one of these custom guns and cycle the action, you feel how much tighter the tolerances are, how much that product feels like quality – it feels above and beyond," said Laliberté.

Moving through the steps from fantasy to holding the gun of your dreams is a challenge unless you have a good idea of exactly what you want. Because custom guns are, by nature, custom and therefore costly, dealers are hesitant to stock them in the hope they might connect with customers. However, there are a few exceptional dealers who bring in custom guns on spec, anticipating what select customers might like. Ask your favourite retailer what they can do for you.

Here is list of major brands of rifles available in Canada and information from their websites on custom offerings:

Custom guns are an expression of the personality and passions of the owner.

BROWNING: Custom builds are focused on shotguns and handguns.

CADEX: Doesn't advertise a custom shop, but they feature Canadian-made, military-grade guns for the civilian market.

CZ: Maintains a custom shop for pistols but doesn't offer custom long guns.

MARLIN: Click on custom guns on their website's menu bar and a couple of more clicks lands you on "Get Started." Click that and an email opens – these guys want to talk with you about your dream.

REMINGTON: Click the custom shop tab at the top right of the menu bar and see base custom rifles in various formats. Beyond those base choices, Remington offers complete customization if customers want something special.

RUGER: The custom shop produces some "custom" products for sale. Look for the Custom 10/22 22 Long Rifle and a selection of upgraded pistols and revolvers.

SAKO: Scroll down a level on the website and select, "Build Your Custom Rifle." Work through the various options offered and at the end you get a suggested MSRP in euros, and a product number.

SMITH AND WESSON: Their performance centre provides upgraded and tuned firearms, mostly handguns. Long guns are limited to the T/C 22, an upgraded and tuned version of their autoloading 22 Long Rifle.

TIKKA: No custom shop, but they do offer some interesting customizable options for grips, stocks and forends.

WEATHERBY: Custom selector is at the top left of their menu selector and quickly takes you through selecting base model, options and gives users an opportunity to submit a deposit. These guys want to close the deal. Reach out to your Weatherby retailer to work with them if your dream gun is a Weatherby.

WINCHESTER: Offers "exclusive products" commissioned for sale through select dealers. See your retailer about what might cross the border to Canada.

Benelli, Franchi, Henry, Howa, Kimber, Mossberg and Savage don't advertise a custom shop.

Once customers work through the Sako configurator, the selection process generates a product code which customer take to their retailer. That rifle might be in Canadian inventory, or it might be a special order. This was the only company I found that had their website set up to generate a product code for a complex optioned order. "The configurator is like the build your own option of car manufacturers. You add your options and at the end you get the product you want," said Shany Poulin, marketing manager with Stoeger Canada.





Exhibition-grade walnut and engraving can add significantly to the cost of your dream gun.

CHOICES & OPTIONS

Shooters love their sport and the rifle is a big part of the pleasure of shooting. Getting exactly what you want requires considering this list choices and options:

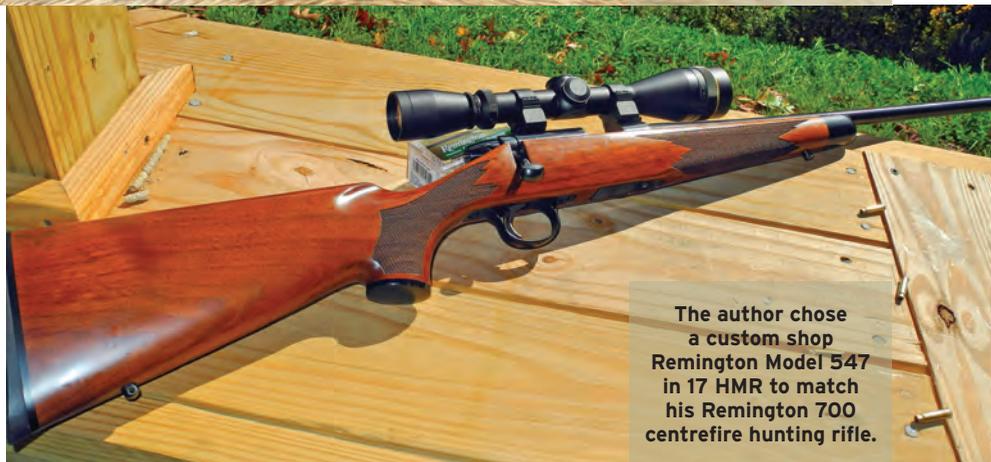
Format and manufacturer. Lever gun, bolt action or semi-auto; hunting or precision; collector or working gun?

Calibre. The concept of form following function suits the choice of calibre. Long-range precision shooters are sweet on 6.5 Creedmoor, while African hunters might lean toward a bolt gun in 375 H&H Magnum or 416 Rigby. A 444 Marlin or 45-70 Government might make a perfect lever gun for a boreal forest adventure. Rimfire shooters will choose from 22 Long Rifle or other rimfire cartridges.

Stock material, shape and length of pull. Traditional wood leans heavily on walnut stocks, but there are other options in wood, including laminate, maple and others. Figure and finish are personal taste and can add a significant cost. Carbon fibre, fibreglass and combinations of aluminum make weather-impervious stocks and chassis to enhance accuracy.

Barrels. Barrels come in more options now than ever. A dreamer can choose from blued, stainless, Cerakote-finished, carbon fibre wrapped and/or fluted.

Sights or no sights. Many traditional guns will have specialty open sights



The author chose a custom shop Remington Model 547 in 17 HMR to match his Remington 700 centrefire hunting rifle.

installed. Telescopic sighted guns might have a base machined right into the action.

Trigger. Custom triggers are often an upgrade option.

Finish. Wood can be finished in hand-rubbed oil, matte or high gloss. Fibreglass and carbon fibre can be painted or printed. Cerakote has opened tremendous options for colour finishes. Metal can be blued, French grayed, colour case-hardened or stainless.

Accurizing. Some custom shops offer bedding and accurizing as part of the custom gun process, while others charge a premium for blueprinting actions and fine detailed accurizing.

Occasionally, a dream rifle costs not much more than a regular production one and others cost as much as four or five times the price of a standard

off-the-shelf firearm. However, there is no substitute for a custom-made gun which satisfies your desire for the perfect rifle. The only question remaining is when we get to start living the dream.

It's worth noting that because of the current COVID-19 reality, some notable manufacturer offices were closed, and the writer was unable to contact them. Most of these manufacturers are outside of Canada. Importers and retail dealers sometimes don't get access to the full line of guns on offer on their website due to the border, but every one of them would love to sell you your dream rifle. Please do your own research when considering your custom gun options, and recognize that world currency fluctuations impact the final price of your dream gun. 🏹

SHOOTABLE HISTORY

Uberti's 1860 Henry rifle
BY NORMAN GRAY





A barrel sleeve is twisted aside to load cartridges into the tubular magazine.



Benjamin Tyler Henry worked as a gunsmith and then as a foreman in the employment of Oliver Winchester at his New Haven Arms Company. His job at the time was to make improvements on Winchester's newly acquired patent for the Volcanic repeating rifle. It was this work that, on Oct. 16, 1860, earned him a patent on the Henry repeating rifle. And the timing couldn't have been better, as in 1861 the Civil War erupted in America, and by mid-year 1862, Henrys were being put in the hands of Union soldiers.

OLD WEST LO

The Henry also found favour with civilians, but it was the American Civil War that elevated the rifle to legendary status, as accounts from the battlefield were numerous, praising victories to its use. Henry's rifle allowed one soldier to engage multiple targets quickly, a feat that would have usually taken a dozen skilled soldiers, armed with muzzleloaders, to accomplish. In the Battle of Altoona Pass, Major William Ludlow reported that 16 of his soldiers, armed with Henry repeating rifles, laid down such a volume of fire that no man could stand in front of them and live. He also stated that the Confederate forces would not assault the fort again in fear of Henry's firepower.

An unknown Confederate officer, after a battle with the 7th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, said something to the effect, "It's that damn Yankee rifle you could load on Sunday and shoot all week." There is no doubt that it contributed to many victories and, in turn, helped facilitate the north winning the Civil War.

The Henry rifle went on to serve the civilian population for many years after >

the Civil War, seeing extensive use in the west to significant effect. One such event was the defeat of General George Armstrong Custer by Crazy Horse at the battle of the Little Bighorn. It also helped pave the way for Oliver Winchester's Volcanic rifle to become the much-improved 1866 Yellow Boy.

The Henry has also played parts in some great western movies; one of note was *Dances with Wolves*, starring Kevin Costner, who played Lt. John J. Dunbar. In a significant scene in the movie, he uses his trusted 1860 Henry to stop an injured buffalo that was charging down a Native American boy. Through the magic of Hollywood, he was victorious, killing the buffalo, just feet from the boy.

THE HENRY'S CARTRIDGE

The 44 Rimfire or 44 Henry Rimfire, as it was commonly labeled, was named in honour of its creator. The bullet most widely used in the initial chambering was a 216 to 220-grain heeled lead bullet loaded with 27 grains of black powder. Initially, rounds utilized a flat-nose bullet but were replaced in favour of a round nose to help with reliable feeding.

The 44 Henry performed much like a modern 200-grain 45 ACP, having a muzzle velocity of around 1,125 feet per second and was generally effective up to 100 yards. The cartridge stayed in service many years, and was chambered in other firearms such as the Winchester Model 1866, S&W No. 3 revolver, Colt

Uberti's Henry uses the same operating system as the original.

Open Top Model 1871 and 1872 and Model 1860 Long Cylinder Conversion. Colt also produced a single action Army revolver that fired the 44 Henry Rimfire. The shared chamberings between rifle and revolver meant the owner need only carry one calibre of ammunition for both rifle and revolver, a common practice in the Old West.

In 1871, the 44 Henry Rimfire was improved by George R. Stetson. By changing the bullet shape, swaging, and pre-lubing the bullet, he made it much more efficient. US patent 120403 was awarded to Stetson on Oct. 31, 1871, and assigned to the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. The cartridge is no longer commercially available, and what is left is expensive and snapped up by collectors.

UBERTI'S 1860 HENRY

Uberti has a simple solution to an obsolete, unobtainable cartridge; purchase any of their three replica 1860 Henry models in a modern chambering. The 1860 Henry Trapper is chambered only in 45 Colt, but their longer-barreled brass and steel models are chambered in either 44-40 WCF or 45 Colt. Both cartridges were born of the Old West and are available at almost any ammunition dealer or can be handloaded.

Why would anyone want to shoot and own a replica of an old, outdated rifle? Certainly, cowboy action competitors trying to replicate a certain character or period will want something as close to the original as possible. And, of course, shooting a replica negates the need to risk damaging a very expensive original, and certainly improves ammunition availability. But besides target shooting,

some people may want to hunt with a rifle like this, allowing them to hunt and shoot as our ancestors did. Reliving that history may be one of the most popular reasons, for a rifle like this. It's not the original gun used in the battle of Altuna Pass, but you can still reach back into history and experience some of it.

The Henry is a simple hammer-fired, lever-action design, which in the 1860s was groundbreaking technology. Even today, it's still a simple but effective design, and after some time behind the trigger, you'll find that maybe the trickiest part of shooting the Henry is loading it. To load the Henry, open the action by moving the cocking lever fully forward, then load the tubular magazine by pushing the brass magazine follower upwards towards the end of the barrel as far as it will go. While holding the follower in place, rotate the top sleeved portion of the barrel clockwise.

Insert a cartridge into the magazine tube, rim first. With the rifle pointed away and at a slight forward angle, allow the round to slide down the tubular magazine. Capacity is eight plus one on the 18-inch model and 13 plus one on the 24.5-inch models. After loading, and while holding the follower in place, rotate the barrel sleeve counter-clockwise and allow the follower to travel downward. Closing the action will now chamber a round from the magazine tube, and the hammer will be cocked. Keep in mind that the only safety at this point is you, as firearms of the time did not employ manual safeties. The lever safety on this rifle just keeps the action from being cycled to chamber a round. If a round is in the chamber and the hammer is cocked, it will fire.



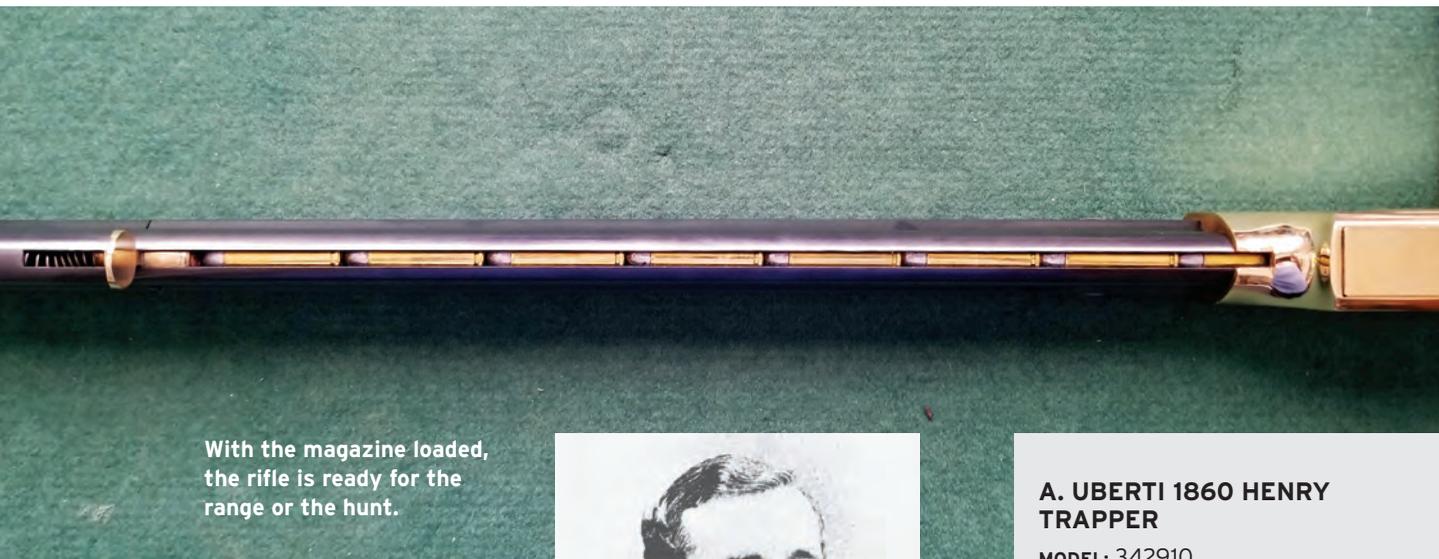
RANGE TIME

Shooting the Henry was a real journey back in time, and it wasn't hard to imagine what it was like for the first soldiers to have this rifle and its firepower at their fingertips. The Uberti 1860 Henry is a simple design and does not have the bells and whistles of modern firearms, so there isn't much to describe. Uberti has built a fine replica; now, you just have to go out and enjoy its history. As long as you live within the realization that with modern ammunition it can be used for hunting, and you work within the limits of the ammunition being used, it will give you some great conversation at the dinner table.

Uberti 1860 Henry (Trapper model) 45 Colt

Manufacturer	Bullet	AV (fps)	SD
TEN-X Ammunition	200-grain LRNFP	1,262	8
DoubleTap Ammunition	255-grain HCS	1,277	7
Liberty Ammunition	78-grain HP	2,366	30

Notes: Velocities are derived from a 10-round average recorded on a Caldwell Ballistic Precision Chronograph G2 placed 15 feet from the muzzle. **Abbreviations:** (AV): average velocity; (SD): standard deviation; (HP): hollow point; (LRNFP): lead round nose flat point; (HCS): hard cast solid



With the magazine loaded, the rifle is ready for the range or the hunt.

For the record, I can't find evidence of a trapper model ever manufactured by Henry or Winchester. If you don't mind that it's six inches shorter and denies you some extra rounds and a bit of velocity, then you can own and shoot the Trapper that never was.

THE MANUFACTURER

A. Uberti is located in the village of Gardone Val Trompia in the Italian Alps. They manufacture faithful replicas of many historic firearms, giving consumers the choice of over 22 black powder revolvers, 179 cartridge revolvers and 69 cartridge rifles.

If you're a reenactor, a fan of the Old West or would just love to own a piece of history from the era, chances are Uberti has it. In my opinion, some of the most authentic, hand-finished replicas in the industry are manufactured by Uberti. Their attention to detail and craftsmanship is masterfully represented in all their historic replica firearms.



Benjamin Tyler Henry

Their replicas are actually better than the originals, as Uberti manufactures their firearms with modern CNC machines and materials. This allows their firearms to be far more durable than the originals and allows us to use modern ammunition without fear of injury or damage to a historic firearm. I'm sure the soldiers and civilians of the past would have approved of these well-made replicas. 🍷

A. UBERTI 1860 HENRY TRAPPER

MODEL: 342910

CALIBRE: 44-40/45 Colt (45 Colt tested)

TYPE ACTION: Case hardened, breech-loading lever action

CAPACITY: Tubular magazine, capacity eight plus one

SAFETY: Lever lock

FRAME: Forged brass

WEIGHT: 8.25 pounds/3.6 kilograms

BARREL: 18.5 inches/46.9 centimetres octagonal tapered steel

RIFLING: One to six-inch, right-hand twist

STOCK: Walnut with a brass buttplate

FOREND: None

REAR SIGHT: Ladder style

FRONT SIGHT: Steel blade

CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR: Stoeger Canada

SWAROVSKI OPTIK

70 years of Austrian excellence

BY KEVIN WILSON



Fascinated with optical physics and astronomy, Wilhelm Swarovski was an avid amateur astronomer. In the 1930s he was already experimenting with advanced methods for producing and grinding crystal prisms



This photograph, taken in 1943, shows Wilhelm Swarovski in his workshop.



Swarovski's dS 5-25x52 P is their entry into the smart rifle scope category.

Last year, Swarovski Optik celebrated its 70th year in business. Known for making some of the finest glass in the world, every optics user in every country is familiar with the brand.

Actually, the Swarovski name is famous worldwide for two things: crystal and optics. While his father, Daniel Swarovski, became legendary for his innovations in grinding crystal gemstones, in 1949 Wilhelm Swarovski founded Swarovski Optik KG, essentially the company we know today, as an independent company within the Swarovski Group.

Fascinated with optical physics and astronomy, Wilhelm Swarovski was an avid amateur astronomer. In the 1930s, he was already experimenting with advanced methods for producing and grinding crystal prisms. At the same time, he applied his expertise with glass production and coating gleaned from working in his father's company,

to develop high-precision binoculars. But it really all began in 1945 when he made his first 6x30 binocular. By 1949, Wilhelm Swarovski had established a company with 50 employees and began producing the famous Habicht 7x42 binocular. After that, he never looked back.

A FAMILY TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Carina Schiestl-Swarovski, a great-granddaughter of Wilhelm Swarovski, looks back with pride on the company's successful history, saying, "It gladdens our hearts to experience nature in-depth. Our vision is to give people an understanding of the joy of observation."

This family-owned company sets the highest standards for quality and design with an extensive range of products. Their binoculars, telescopes, optronic instruments, rifle scopes, rangefinders and night sights are used the world over, not only by professional outfitters, guides and naturalists, but also by a

growing number of recreational hunters, nature observers, birdwatchers and adventure tourists.

It's no secret that European craftsmanship and innovation, along with the family's never-ending standard of excellence, has firmly established Swarovski Optik as an industry leader. Until the mid-1990s though, there were still relatively few brand manufacturers at the table, with only a small handful of competitors coming close to the presenting the quality and accompanying reputation held by Swarovski.

DEVELOPING AN OPTICS EMPIRE

Swarovski's perpetual motivation to improve on what is already good was the driving force behind the development of their optics empire. Widely recognized as the standard, their Habicht series of binoculars was soon followed by other models, and in 1959 they launched their first rifle scope. Since then, Swarovski Optik's product lines have grown and continue to develop both technically and functionally.

Perhaps most noteworthy within the company's binocular offering is the EL series with its 42-millimetre objective lenses. Launched in 1990, this design, with a wrap-around grip, has now been copied by other manufacturers. After 2000, another milestone was reached, when Swarovski Optik developed its ATS/STS 80 range of spotting scopes with magnesium technology.

By 2007, the optics world was beginning to take off. Industry-wide, many new brands were launching in the marketplace, but Swarovski Optik stayed the course, with the unwavering purpose of making only the best for its

client base. Recognizing global economic conditions at the time, Wilhelm Swarovski's optics empire had become a corporate giant serving markets across the globe.

That same year, they launched the Z6 range of rifle scopes, presenting a 50 per cent larger field of view and a 50 per cent greater magnification range compared to other models. By June 2008, their 30,000th rifle scope left the factory. Despite challenging global economic conditions at the time, the Austrian company continued to push forward in developing not only its innovative product lines, but also new geographic markets around the world. In the words of Schiestl-Swarovski, "Our company focuses on people. We owe our success to the skills of our workforce. We consider it our duty to constantly improve what is good, to surprise our customers time and time again and to exceed their expectations. Our culture is shaped by the love of

Shooters and hunters around the world widely recognize Swarovski optics as some of the finest on the market.



beautiful products, precision fabrication, attention to detail and respect for the highest standards in all activities of the company."

On the cutting edge of innovative design and functionality, Swarovski Optik continues to maintain its reputation as an industry leader. It's impossible to highlight their entire product line here, but three benchmark examples include their laser rangefinding binoculars, modular spotting scope and digital riflescope.

RANGEFINDING BINOCULARS

Swarovski's EL Range, and most recent addition, the EL O-Range, combine a binocular with rangefinding capability. Available in 8x and 10x magnification, both with 42-millimetre objective lenses, I find this to be an impressive binocular. The integrated laser rangefinding function pinpoints distances by simply aiming and pressing the measurement button, making it an essential piece of gear for many guides. As both a professional guide and a hunter, it is my number one asset in the field.

Particularly advantageous if you're hunting in steep terrain, or from a tree stand, the rangefinder compensates for angle, providing the adjusted shooting distances in an easy-to-see digital display while viewing the subject. With an advertised ranging ability effective

to 1,500 yards, I find it well balanced, designed for comfort and easy to hold steady. Tom Hogan, senior technical advisor at Swarovski Optik North America, says he has seen accurate readings over 2,000 yards in noticeably clear conditions, and conversely as low as 100 yards in heavy fog or snow.

The EL Range is available in green, but equally innovative, the EL O-Range is available in hunter orange, making it highly visible and easy to keep track of in the field. When I asked Hogan what he felt was the strongest technical point of the EL Range, he said, "Really, there are lots of key features that make the EL Range so desirable. Image clarity is certainly exceptional, but Swarovski really hit a home run with its light transmission technology for a binocular rangefinder – 91 per cent in both barrels – significantly higher than other optics in this class."

MODULAR SPOTTING SCOPE SYSTEM

As for spotting scopes, Swarovski Optik's unique ATX/STX/BTX modular spotting scope system has changed the way I look at, handle and use spotting scopes. As a modular system, the ATX/STX/BTX comes with three different objective lens options and two eyepiece configurations, with accessories for digiscoping. Your biggest decision when you look at purchasing this system involves deciding which modules and accessories you want. The ATX eyepiece is angled upward. The linear

design of the STX eyepiece provides a straight view. The BTX has a binocular eyepiece.

Hogan says, "Without a doubt, the versatility of this modular system is unparalleled. It gives users the ability to choose either the angled or straight ocular, or the option of three different objective lenses: 65, 85 or 95 millimetres. We've had hunting guides tell us they were stunned by the high-resolution image of the modular series, particularly with the 95-millimetre objective. This is due to Swarovski's Swarovision technology with HD glass, a field-flattener lens that gives perfect edge-to-edge clarity and eliminates distortion, as well as giving a comfortable 20 millimetres of eye relief."

For me, one of the coolest options with the ATX/STX/BTX modular spotting scope is the digiscoping application. Swarovski Optik recognized the growing trend of distance photography and even videography. In turn, they created an adaptor for point-and-shoot, digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras and mobile phones. By mounting a TLS APO adaptor to your camera, or the variable phone adaptor (VPA) to your mobile phone, digiscoping is made easy.

Swarovski's laser rangefinding binocular boasts 91 per cent light transmission in both barrels.

DIGITAL RIFLESCOPE TECHNOLOGY

Regarding the dS 5-25x52 P, Dean Capuano, director of communications at Swarovski Optik North America, says, "We developed a smart rifle scope with this product. It provides hunters and shooters alike with an intelligent solution. Technical and long-range optical innovations, combined with the hunter's expertise, make it possible to be completely accurate. This product goes a long way towards ethical hunting and shooting."

Using digital technology, the dS automatically displays the correct aiming point, taking into account the distance, air pressure, temperature and angle while shooting. The heads-up display in the field of view projects key data in real time measurements. This is all accomplished by pairing your smartphone with your riflescope using Bluetooth. With the downloaded dS configurator app, you can choose metric or imperial measurements, input your specific ballistic data, including brand, bullet weight (factory or customized handload), information, muzzle velocity, ballistic coefficient and atmospheric conditions at the time of sighting in. By saving this information in the app configurator, you are then able to calculate the aiming point. This allows you to set up your riflescope display, including desired reticle and wind strength.

LIGHT & COLOUR TRANSMISSION

It's clear to me that Swarovski Optik constantly strives to manufacture the best in an effort to maintain their position as an industry leader. Continually refining their glass grinding and polishing process, Hogan explains, "The purpose is to get the truest colour possible to the eye and to increase contrast. Up until 1999, Swarovski Optik used silver as that mirrored surface, giving a 96 per cent true colour transmission. Many less expensive brands use aluminum, which only transmits about 80 per cent true colour. When we came up with Swarobright, 99 per cent true colour transmission became possible."

Certainly, if this company can maintain the level of quality and innovation they have demonstrated over the last 70 years, it's exciting to anticipate where this company might go with their products in the future. Indeed, to say they have been an industry success story would be an understatement. 🏆



PRECISION MEASURING

Forster helps shooters measure the impossible

BY AL VOTH



Above: Parts of the Datum Dial are available separately, but it's most economical to buy the complete kit.

All handloaders know that precision measuring is key to making safe and accurate ammunition. Fortunately, most of the measurements we need for safe handloads are straightforward and can be done with any good caliper. However, for handloaders ready to move beyond safe and looking for maximum accuracy, measurements are needed which are impossible without specialized tools. The Datum Dial, a product of Forster, the American supplier of gunsmithing and handloading tools, is a product which makes those impossible measurements not only possible, but easy.

MEASURING CARTRIDGE CASES

The overall length of a cartridge case is a measurement which needs to be

right for safety reasons, because a case that's too long can cause pressures to spike to dangerous levels. Measuring case length is easy with a standard caliper, as is trimming them to length with commonly available case trimmers. However, there's a cartridge case measurement which is important for accuracy. This is the length from the base of the case to an arbitrary line on the case shoulder, called a datum line.

Actually, the datum line is a circumference, and it's the point on a case shoulder where that cone-shaped part is exactly an arbitrarily specified diameter. For example, the datum line on a 270 WIN case is the point where the cone-shaped shoulder is 0.375 inches in diameter. The distance from the base of the case to this circumference point



Left: Forster's Datum Dial measures bullets, cartridge cases and loaded ammunition for consistency.

Below: The Datum Dial attaches to a caliper, which is supplied by the purchaser.

is also the headspace measurement for the cartridge. Interestingly, there are only five datum diameters in use, covering most of the bottleneck-shaped cartridges we shoot. Forster's Datum Dial, as the name suggests, allows handloaders to easily measure this headspace dimension, using five precise holes which correspond to these datum diameters. The appropriate hole is selected by referring to a supplied cartridge chart and then dialing the tool to the right one.

To use it, the Datum Dial must be mounted to one jaw of a caliper – which is not included with the tool. I recommend a digital caliper be used, so it can be zeroed out, thus providing a direct reading with no math required. I ended up buying another caliper and devote it entirely to use with the Datum Dial.

This measurement is important to handloaders because, in a perfect world, a reloaded cartridge case has been fire-formed to a perfect fit in the rifle's chamber. There's no slop, no movement, just a zero-tolerance fit. But the world is rarely perfect, and so we need to set our sizing dies so there is a small amount of clearance, allowing the rifle to keep working if fouling or other crud gets into the chamber. Many experts claim .004-inch clearance is good in a semi-auto rifle, and about .002 inches in a bolt-action hunting rifle, with the previously mentioned zero clearance in a bolt-action match rifle. Those are all likely good target numbers, but how do you measure them? That's the magic of the Datum Dial. It allows handloaders to measure and adjust exactly how much, if any, shoulder set back is being performed in the sizing operation.

MEASURING BULLETS

If you're still with me on this dive into



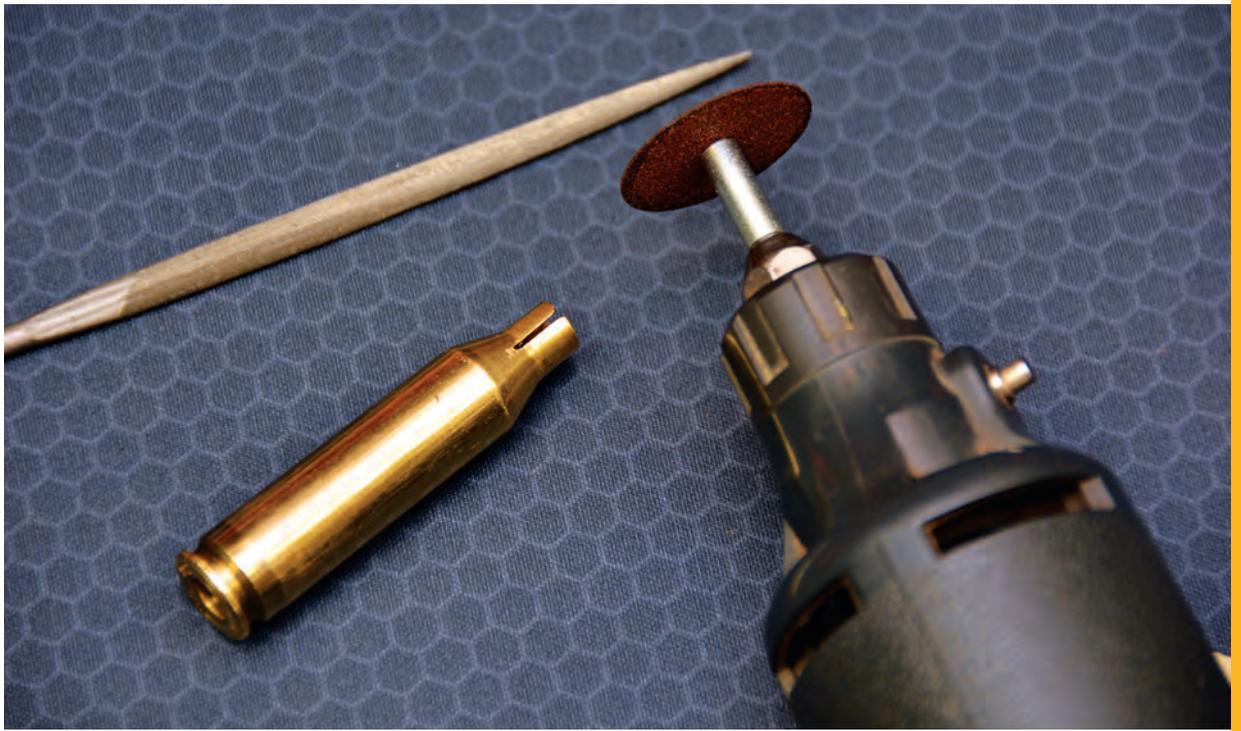
measuring trivia, then we need to discuss measuring bullets in a manner similar to cartridge cases. Modern rifle bullets have a bearing surface which closely matches the widest diameter (groove diameter) of the rifle's barrel. For the 270 WIN we've been using as an example, the bullet diameter is .277 inches. That same bullet has a tapered cone-like section forward of the bearing surface, called the ogive, which leads to the tip of the bullet. And there's a point somewhere on that ogive where the lands of the rifle's barrel will first contact the bullet. This is somewhat like the datum line we've already discussed, but its position isn't an arbitrary diameter, and varies slightly depending on the height of a barrel's lands. What really matters is this line's position in relation to those lands.

If the bullet is jammed into the rifling, pressures can quickly rise to dangerous levels. Maximum accuracy is often

found with the bullet set .005 to .010 inches from touching the rifling. But mono-metal bullets usually perform best if set .040 inches off the rifling or more.

In that perfect world we keep talking about, all the bullets in a box will be identical, particularly in length, weight, diameter and the point on the ogive where the bullet will contact the rifling. While length, weight and diameter are usually extremely uniform, that datum line on the ogive may not be. If it varies significantly, we end up with bullets which are exactly the same length but have a significantly different jump to make to contact the rifling. This is never good for accuracy.

Forster's Datum Dial is available with secondary dials which allow handloaders to measure bullets for consistency in this dimension. Between these two dials, 10 different bullet diameters, ranging from .17 to .338 calibre, can be



Above: A modified cartridge case is used to measure the distance from land engagement to cartridge base.



Left: These bullets are exactly the same length, but their jump to engage the rifling will vary .009 inches.

measured. To make a measurement, the unit's body is locked onto the caliper's jaw and the case measuring dial is replaced with the appropriate bullet dial. Then a measurement from bullet base to ogive datum line is performed, just as with a cartridge case.

My own experiments in this area reveal some bullets are more consistent than others. As you'd expect, sorting bullets this way usually results in a typical bell curve distribution. With well-made bullets, the outliers are only about .003 inches apart. But with poorly made bullets, they can be as far as .010 inches apart. Measuring is the only way to sort out the bad ones.

MEASURING LOADED AMMUNITION

This measurement can also be ex-

tended to loaded ammunition. Again, to ensure bullet jump to rifling is exactly what you're looking for. But first it's important to determine the CBTO (cartridge base to ogive) length at which the bullet touches the rifling. I usually fall back on a simple cost-effective approach by making my own tool, which is nothing more than a modified cartridge case.

Start with a cartridge case that's been fired in your rifle, and preferably re-chambers in the rifle with some resistance. Then, run the case into a resizing die far enough that about half the neck is resized, but the body of the case is largely untouched. This will provide some neck tension to a bullet, while ensuring the case still fills the chamber entirely. The next step is to cut

a vertical slit through the entire length of the neck. A rotary Dremel-type tool with a composite cutting blade is the best tool for this job. Deburr this cut on both sides with a small, round file and you're done.

To take a measurement, push the bullet you've chosen to use into the neck by hand, adding tension, if needed, by squeezing the neck closed with your fingers. Leave the bullet sticking out of the neck in an obviously too-long position. Then insert this bullet/case combination gently into the chamber and close the bolt. In the process of chambering, the bullet will contact the rifling lands and be pushed back into the case. Extract this fake cartridge carefully and it will allow a measurement to be taken which indicates the cartridge length at which this bullet contacts the rifling lands. Repeat the process several times to ensure accurate results. Now, set your seating die to create the bullet jump desired, as measured by the Datum Dial, and you're done.

AVAILABILITY

The Datum Dial is a specialized tool, and you won't find it at your local big box sporting goods store. Most gun shops won't even have it. I see Canada's X-Reload (www.x-reload.com) has it for \$172 CAD, which is a great buy, as Forster (www.forsterproducts.com) has it for the same price, but in US dollars. It's a way to measure the otherwise impossible, precisely and easily. 

FIRST- PERSON SHOOTER

Video recording for the shooting sports
BY LOWELL STRAUSS



Many competitive shooters use a GoPro attached to their head to help evaluate performance and diagnose mistakes.



I clearly remember 1992, when *Wolfenstein 3D* came out. It was my first experience playing a first-person shooter video game, and it was thrilling! The novel part was that my vantage was directly behind the weapon, providing a commanding view of the gameplay. This game kickstarted a genre of FPS fantasy games, as well as realistic hunting and shooting simulators. The fun part is that they allow us an opportunity to shoot vicariously from our phones, computers and gaming con-

soles. Sadly, they are a poor proxy for real-life activities like range time or hunting.

However, with the video capabilities of our modern electronic devices, we can now record real trigger time for viewing later. Whether it's dusting clays, shooting varmints or the action shooting sports, capturing memories and sharing our experience is only a click away. But handling a firearm safely and focusing on the target means it's nearly impossible to record yourself. With

The Tactacam 5.0 with FTS mount is a game changer. The setup allows the shooter to look through the scope as normal, while recording video of the shot.



the recent advent of small video cameras, mounted in strategic places, options are unfolding.

So, let's explore what it takes to star in your own shooting movie. Who knows, you may become the next YouTube sensation!

PRO SHOOTER

Today, we ride shotgun with Logan Martin, an Alberta-based 3-gun competitor, who uses his action camera to document matches. When Martin started his 3-gun career, he noticed other competitors running the course with action cameras mounted on their heads. That sparked his curiosity. Over the years, he's tried a few different budget cameras but has gravitated to GoPro because of its reputable brand name and optional accessories.

"The wide-angle view from the GoPro lens is ideal for recording hits on reactive targets out to about 50 yards," said Martin. "Beyond that, hits are difficult to see on the video, though I still get some decent still shots to highlight my guns and gear." He creates additional footage by asking a friend to record him with a smartphone.

Martin processes most of his video right on his phone. He doesn't see the need to edit videos extensively because the raw and gritty 3-gun action speaks for itself. He shares this dynamic content with social media followers on Instagram, hoping to inspire others to try the sport he loves.

For Martin, video started as a way to create social media content, but

he soon realized that videos are a powerful training tool too. Pouring over his own videos, he analyzes his grip and reaction time in each stage, so he can shave off time in future competitions. He also learns from others' videos. "It's great to watch and learn from the world's best shooters as they run through a stage," says Martin.

GOPRO

GoPro, founded in 2002, builds a compact, high-definition action camera. It's a favourite among thrill seekers and adrenaline junkies who want to relive the action. Shooting athletes successfully use GoPros to record competition performances, and GoPro is also a popular camera on the range or during a hunt.

The ultra-wide-angle lens in a GoPro gives videos a telltale fisheye look, recording more of the scene

than your own eyes. The downside? Just like the side mirrors on your vehicle, objects appear farther away than they are, and things look distorted – straight lines appear curved.

GoPro cameras work best for close-range targets or video selfies. They are compact and offer a plethora of mounting options, from head, wrist and chest straps to tripods and gun mounts. You can even get a mount for your gundog! Some accessories allow mounting two cameras, positioned to capture both forward and rearward action.

Videos download using wifi and Bluetooth from the camera onto your phone, and the GoPro app customizes the settings. Power users can transfer videos to a computer, where they edit using software like Adobe Premiere to splice together clips with transitions and add text.

The HERO8 Black is the newest



The ShotKam comes with a quick-release mount for locking, attaching the camera to the bottom of a 12-gauge shotgun barrel.

GoPro camera and it's loaded with advanced features. For hunters and target shooters, its durable, waterproof housing should stand up for many years of service.

TACTACAM 5.0 WITH FTS

The robust and weatherproof Tactacam 5.0 action camera, built specifically for hunters, works well for recording all types of shooting. This compact camera is easy to use, with one-button operation, a vibration indicator, an ultra-high-quality lens and a low-light sensor.

Tactacam uses a unique lens design, providing a view like what we see with the human eye. The 5.0 model has three quick operations modes: standard, zoom and slow-motion. Standard mode is ideal for general filming and low-light conditions, as the default is 3x zoom, producing a video without wide-angle distortion. In zoom mode, the camera is set to 8x, perfect for recording distant objects. Slow-motion mode increases the frame rate to 120 frames per second. All three modes are customizable using the Tactacam app.

Optional accessories include a head mount, Picatinny rail mount, under-scope-rail mount and a film-through-scope (FTS) mount. Capturing

the perfect angle is easy by either mounting the camera in different positions or by using multiple cameras.

Tactacam's FTS, in particular, is a game-changer, taking rifle shooting video to a whole new level. With FTS, the shooter records exactly what they see through the scope (including the reticle) on the camera. As you increase the scope's magnification, Tactacam's magnification increases accordingly. The FTS mounts in any position on your scope, using a series of mirrors to bounce the image from the scope into the camera. You use the scope normally since it doesn't obstruct your optics. Since I'm a right-handed shooter, I mounted the FTS on the left. Interestingly, it acts as a blinder such as target shooters use, allowing me to keep both eyes open – a side benefit.

Tactacam records video up to 4K resolution, including with image stabilization, remote sync, live streaming, the ability to control multiple Tactacams (up to five with optional remote) and wifi connectivity to the app. The Tactacam app lets users customize settings, and watch in real-time, playback and live-stream video.

Tactacam was designed for hunters, and its versatility lets any-

one enjoy recording hits at extended ranges. This setup is also perfect for air gunners – with minimal recoil and lower velocities, the video captures pellets in flight!

SHOTKAM

The ShotKam camera was originally designed as a shotgun sports training tool, and it is just as comfortable in the duck blind or at a multi-gun shooting competition, recording shots as short individual videos. The first thing I noticed about the camera was its incredible build quality. It's completely waterproof and designed to take the repetitive heavy recoil of a 12-gauge shotgun.

ShotKam has specific design features for training. Its lens is set at 4x magnification with an 18-degree field-of-view, the equivalent of the human eye. Playback speed is designed to replicate how our brain perceives a moving target. Wifi is built in, enabling users to download and review through a mobile device, so shooters celebrate the hits and learn from the misses right at the >

The ShotKam is 100 per cent waterproof and built like a tank. Durable and easy to use, the ShotKam works in all conditions.



range. At high resolution, shots are recorded in 1080p at 100 frames per second and then automatically saved in 1/3 speed. At lower resolutions, it records up to 180 frames per second with 1/6 playback speed.

The ShotKam includes a quick-release mount for 12-gauge single barrel and over/under shotguns, allowing attachment to a barrel in seconds. Optional brackets adapt the ShotKam to sub-gauge shotguns and most rifle barrel profiles. Aligning the reticle to where the gun is aimed is easy within the app.

ShotKam is unique in using an accelerometer-controlled aiming system (ACAS) video camera. This means it buffers and only records to memory a few seconds before, during and after the shot. ShotKam detects the gun action closing and buffers 20 seconds of video. If there is recoil during that time, it will save the video. If you move your gun but do not shoot, then the video is deleted and not saved onto its built-in 64 gigabyte micro-SD memory card. When shooting clay targets, all shots taken within five seconds of each other (true and report pairs) save on the same video. The video length depends on the type of target selected in the app. For bird hunting, the videos are 18 to 30 seconds long – three seconds pre-shot and three seconds post-shot slowed down to 1/3 speed. If multiple shots are taken within nine seconds of each other, they are saved as one video. There are other settings for ground game, too.

The ShotKam app allows full customization for the type of gun, including shotgun, rifle and handgun, reticle type, wake-up sensitivity, recoil sensitivity, recording time, playback speed and target type. ShotKam offers a series of instructional videos featuring pro shooters to help you to use the camera to its full po-

tential – worth watching! This camera is an excellent tool for the clay target shooter or volume wing-shooter.

FINAL CREDITS

With the advent of digital cameras, smartphones and compact action cameras, recording personal trigger time has never been easier. Pro and amateur shooters are digitizing memories for personal enjoyment, as well as for sharing with friends, family, sponsors or anyone else who cares to watch.

I've touched on three video camera systems for hunters and target shooters. Each one has key features to create videos for training and forging memories. While I don't have any personal experience with a GoPro, those who do, love them. In addition to filming shooting action, it works for all of life's other adventures as well. The ShotKam integrates a recoil-controlled video system design, making it a powerful training tool that only records the important stuff. For hunting, I like to think of the ShotKam video as a highlights reel, recording every shot. Recording video through a riflescope makes the Tactacam 5.0 with FTS a unique action camera, allowing you to see

through the eyes of the shooter. Rig the Tactacam 5.0 in one of their mounting systems and you get close to the action with a camera capable of zooming to 8x.

I can't pick just one system. They all produce outstanding results and complement each other. If you are on a limited budget, carefully consider the types of shooting videos you want to record. For a 3-Gun shooter like Logan Martin, a GoPro does the trick. For the deer, turkey or predator hunter, I'd choose the Tactacam 5.0. And for the clays shooter or waterfowl hunter, the ShotKam is best.

Take advantage of this technology and share your love of the shooting sports with someone new. Who knows, it may inspire others to go shooting, too. 🍀

RESOURCES:

TACTACAM: <https://www.tactacam.com/>

SHOTKAM: <https://ca.shotkam.com/>

GOPRO: <https://gopro.com/en/ca/>

Logan Martin 3-Gun: Instagram @logan_3gun

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THE LICENSE QUESTION

Should firearms owners be licensed?

BY GARY MAUSER

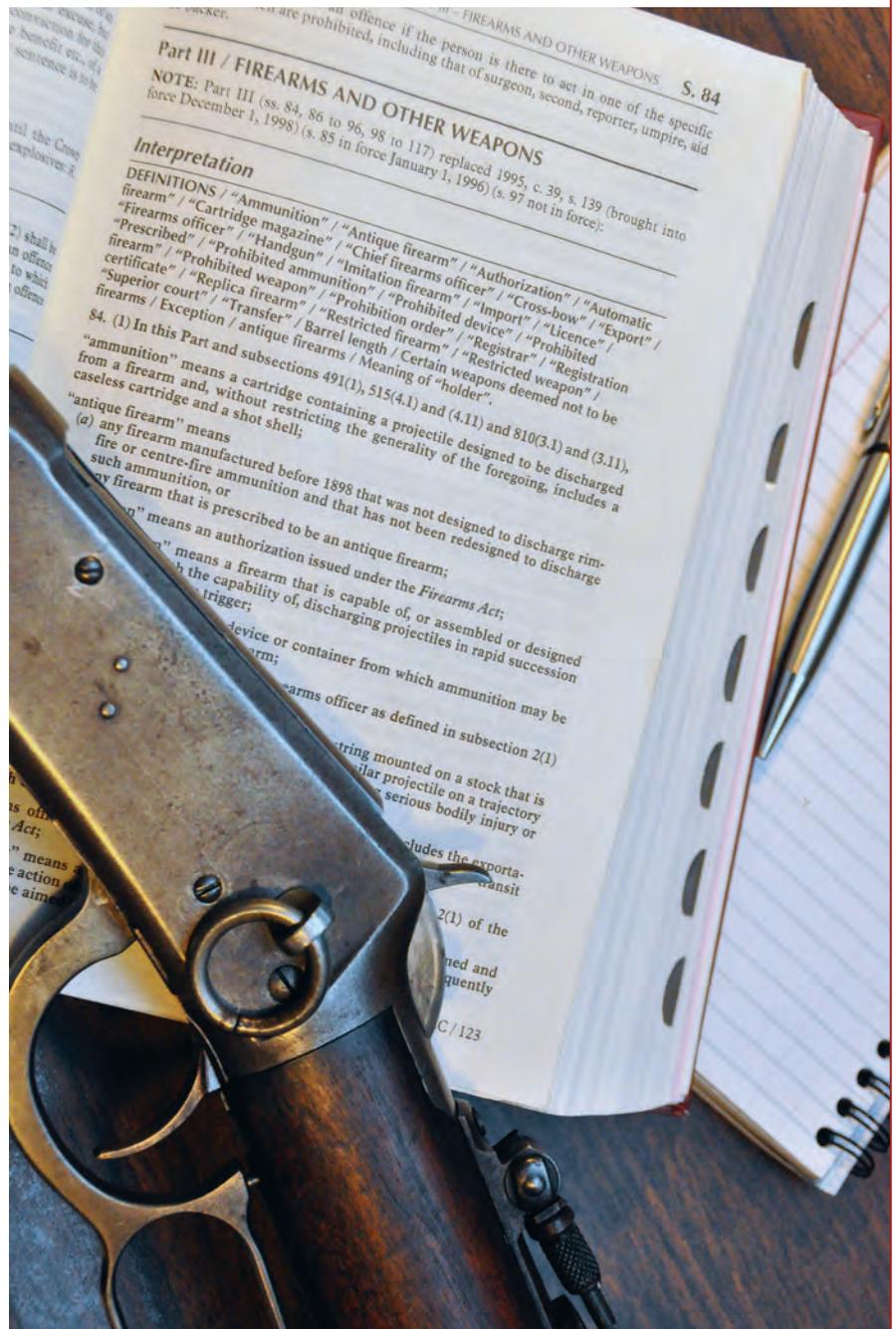
Why believe the media when they call the Nova Scotia killer a “gunman”? Yes, guns were involved, but so was arson. Many victims were apparently burned to death. This was mass murder. The killer is a murderer. Focusing just on guns is a red herring. And since the killer in this case did not have a PAL, the system failed its primary goal of controlling firearms ownership. Guns are available to any criminal who wants one.

In the more than 20 years since Canadian firearms owners were first required to be licenced, licensing has unfortunately begun to be accepted as normal. This is shocking because the idea that a police bureaucracy would be required to monitor law-abiding people who own firearms was widely opposed before it became mandatory. The usual justifications for licensing firearms owners are unconvincing. Moreover, the system is ripe for abuse, even if one is willing to accept the concept of licensing.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Government officials say that licensing firearms owners reduces violent crime. We are told that because firearms pose a threat to a peaceable society, owners of firearms should be carefully screened so that criminals, terrorists or violently insane people do not have access to dangerous weapons. In addition to an initial screening, licensing imposes continuous monitoring of owners so that threats may be more quickly discovered. Licensing also helps the police enforce restrictions on firearms handling, such as transporting firearms to the range or to a gunsmith and safe storage rules.

However, research undermines the claim that licensing improves public safety. Technically strong research stud-



ies in both Canada and the US routinely fail to find empirical support for a variety of strict gun controls reducing criminal violence. Langmann showed that none of Canada's gun laws worked to reduce homicide or suicide and Mauser demonstrated that moose kill more people than PAL holders.

TARGETING MINORITIES

Licensing remains a stain on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. For the authorities to single out a minority for special scrutiny has long been viewed as violating the principles of fundamental justice, and as such, unacceptable in most democracies. It has long been deemed repugnant to target religious and ethnic minorities. If the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is to mean anything, it is important to respect the natural rights of Canadians who belong to social groups that are not favoured by urban elites.

Of course, the typical justification for targeting a minority is that they pose a threat to public safety. Canadian authorities still consider it objectionable to systematically monitor criminals, even violent criminals, after their release from prison.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations is another reason given by authorities, who say firearms licensing is useful to reassure the public. It helps politicians feel good about themselves because they are seen to be doing something, even if it's ineffective in reducing criminal violence.

Licensing as a public relations exercise has an ugly underbelly. Public reassurance is won by stigmatizing hunters and sport shooters as a threat to public safety. Falsely equating guns with criminal violence scapegoats law-abiding owners. Not only does licensing stigmatize respectable citizens, but licensing exposes them to onerous police scrutiny. In addition to an initial screening and daily monitoring by the police, firearms owners are subject to immediate arrest if a neighbour or former spouse is concerned they pose "a danger to themselves or others." Even false accusations may result in a long and expensive legal process. The process is the punishment.

These problems are not just theoretical. According to StatsCan data, there are 10 times more non-violent "gun crimes" than violent gun crimes.

Historically, the typical justification for targeting a minority (racial or otherwise) is that they pose a threat to public safety.



DEMONIZATION

Demonization of gun owners in the media leads to intimidation. The media falsely equates guns with criminal violence so it is understandable that the public would confuse law-abiding owners with criminals. Firearms ownership comes to be seen as a questionable activity, and this leads to overzealous enforcement of minor administrative restrictions on firearms handling, such as transporting firearms and safe storage rules. Licensing facilitates the punishment of gun owners for minor administrative violations. Even unverified accusations are troublesome. Again, the legal process is the punishment. A legitimate concern about arbitrary arrest too often leads gun owners to hide their hobby from their neighbours. This differs little from intimidation. Is intimidation an intended feature of firearms licensing, or an accidental bug?

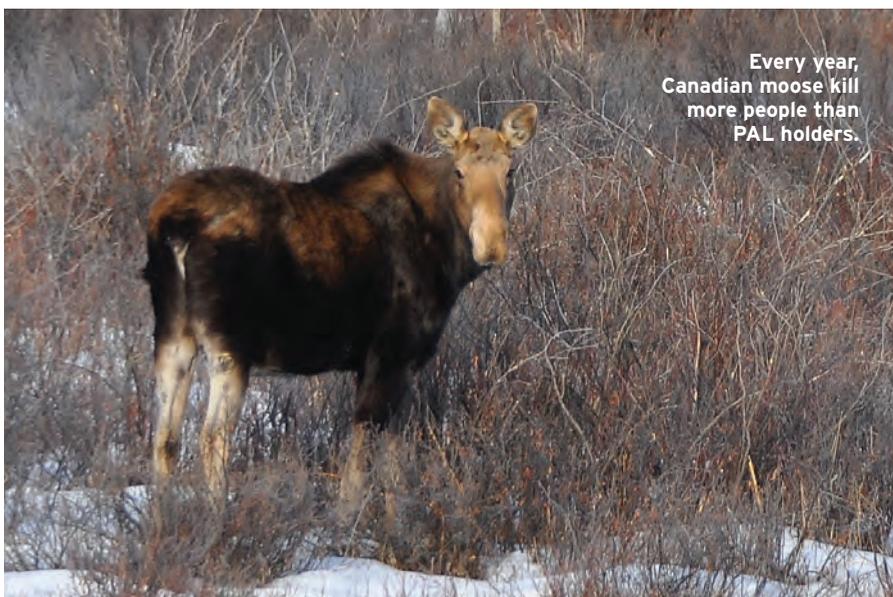
BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS

Even if one accepts the concept of licensing firearms owners, the system is ripe for abuse. First, because licensing imposes a complex bureaucratic system that necessarily subjects decent citizens to unelected government officials wielding arbitrary power. This may be true for all bureaucracies, but firearms licensing involves severe criminal sanctions, including prison time. Even unintentional mistakes may result in criminal charges, including

jail time. Since bureaucracies necessarily entail complex paper work, the process may be troublesome for people who aren't comfortable navigating such seas, such as immigrants who do not speak English or French as a first language, blue-collar workers or older residents who are challenged by filling out governmental forms and answering complex, legalistic questions.

In contrast to hunting licences, firearms licensing was imposed on firearms owners against fierce opposition. The Auditor General of Canada, in her 2002 review of the justice department's implementation of Bill C-68, pointed out that one of the problems with the licensing system was that some administrators of the firearms legislation believed that "the use of firearms is in itself a 'questionable activity,'" and "there should be a zero-tolerance attitude toward non-compliance." In comparison, hunting licences were originally introduced at the request of fish and game clubs and hunters.

Moreover, the appeals process, when available, is lengthy and expensive, typically requiring legal counsel. Whether rare or frequent, appeals are another complex bureaucratic maze that individuals may not be able to pursue because of finances. These problems are exacerbated by an overly bureaucratic approach to regulations taken by unsympathetic administrators. The public's fear of firearms, coupled with the severe



Every year,
Canadian moose kill
more people than
PAL holders.

penalties for violating administrative rules, compounds the standard bureaucratic problems.

It is important to respect due process. The rights of the accused matter, as well as those of the accuser. Much as the Me Too movement has led some authorities to believe claims about sexual harassment without adequate checks, police have tended to readily accept accusations against firearms owners. After being arrested, licence holders are then forced to defend themselves through an expensive and lengthy legal process to prove their innocence and retrieve their confiscated firearms. The

process is the punishment.

SUMMING UP

Falsely equating guns with criminal violence, scapegoats law-abiding owners. Maximizing harassment of gun owners is a feature, not a bug, of gun control. Not only does licensing stigmatize law-abiding citizens, but licensing exposes them to onerous police scrutiny and makes them vulnerable to false accusations. And even false accusations may result in a long and expensive legal process. The fewer gun owners, the easier it is to clamp down on the "bitter clingers." 🗡️

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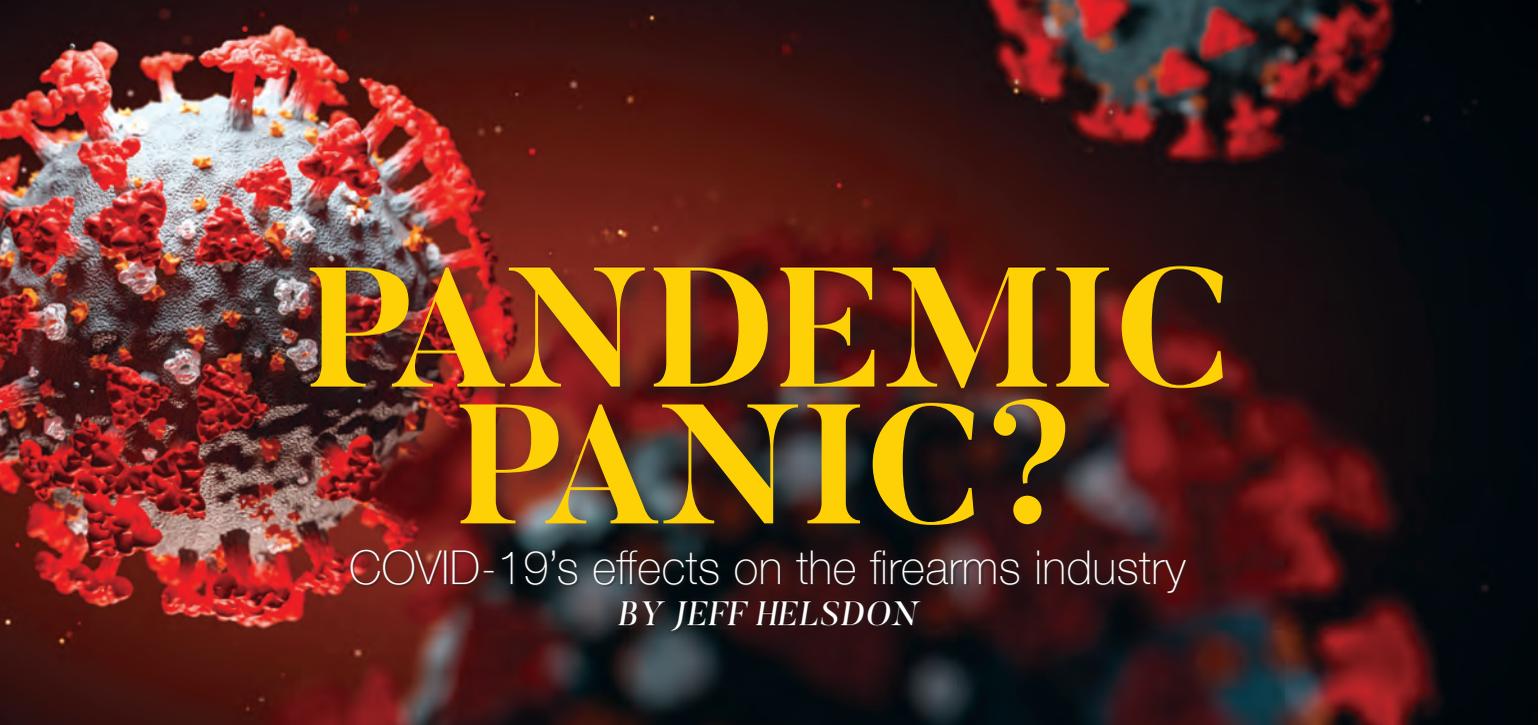
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PANDEMIC PANIC?

COVID-19's effects on the firearms industry

BY JEFF HELSDON

There have been winners and losers in the firearms industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the virus hit, sales started to surge in gun stores. So much so that many stores saw record sales. Alison de Groot, managing director with the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association (CSAAA), said sales were up 230 per cent on average for ammunition and firearms, although it varied by region.

Media reports of crazy sales in the United States was one of the driving forces, as Canadian firearms owners feared a disruption in the supply chain. Concern about the plummeting Canadian dollar pushing up the price of new ammunition was another factor. de Groot also said there were a small number of "prepper" types who were adding to the sales increase.

Interviewed at press deadline in early May, de Groot said sales are still strong across the country. "It's not crazy like it was," she said. At the time, many retailers were operating with curbside pick-up or shipping with online sales. Some of the firearms retailers that have hardware stores were still operating with open stores and obviously with safety precautions in place, she explained. Those were shut down in Ontario, but not other provinces.

"There are stores in more rural locations where it's a true mom and pop shop, and those stores are open to customer traffic, especially in Ontario and Alberta where hunting and fishing were named as essential under agriculture and food," de Groot said. "A lot of businesses are gauging opening based on the social license they get from their

community. So, if their community is supporting them being open, they are staying open with safety precautions."

But all is not rosy. While de Groot doesn't know of any businesses shut down by enforcement agencies, some are seeing less sales or are closed temporarily. "I have spoken to some retailers who have been particularly hard hit. We're coaching them through the small business benefits available to them," she said.

Even with many of the businesses operating with curbside pick-up, there has been a negative in employees who are laid off. de Groot explained not as many staff members are needed for just picking and shipping, compared to normal customer service.

THE WORD FROM RETAILERS

Brian Densmore Firearms, of Middle Musquodoboit, NS, saw business slow some after an initial increase. "People are afraid they're not going to get supplies to shoot," Densmore said. "When the guys south of the border start stockpiling, nothing gets north of the border."

At Accuracy Plus in Peterborough, the store was operating with curbside pick-up. Following a spike in sales in March, sales have been more normal, with turkey ammunition a hot commodity. "I think because of this people have more time to hunt, so that's what driving it more than anything," said Jeff Tombs. He also predicts a bit of shortage in the fall.

Matt Hipwell, owner of Wolverine Supplies in Virden, Man., saw some increase in firearms, ammunition and accessory sales. He chalked this up to the

change in the Canadian dollar, a plan for manufacturers to increase prices six to 10 per cent before the pandemic hit, and people just wanting to ensure they had what they needed. He is operating with curbside and online sales for staff safety. Hipwell is concerned sales may decrease going into the year if people don't have as much disposal income due to employment issues arising from COVID-19.

Wanstalls owner Matt Mendel, of Maple Ridge, BC, is also operating with curbside pick-up, although it wasn't a legislated closing. He also saw a surge in sales when the shutdowns started. Prices have been up about 10 per cent for any new inventory he is receiving due to the declining dollar.

IS A SHORTAGE LOOMING?

Denise Sondjo, sales director with Remington distributor Gravel Agency, said sales continue to be strong. "There is a huge demand, and there will most certainly be a shortage going into the fall," she said. "People should buy now, for the hunting season, while they can."

At Stoeger Canada, General Manager Spyros Chrysochou said the importer for brands such as Sako, Tikka, Beretta and Benelli has limited people in the company's Oshawa facility. "We continue to receive goods and distribute accordingly," he said. "Any on premises, personnel respect protocols of distancing, sanitizing, etc." The company saw a surge in sales and has supplied police agencies with free protective eye wear in appreciation for their front-line service.

With many of its shotguns made in

Italy, Beretta also faced some manufacturing challenges. "While Italy has undergone a severe blow due to the virus, it has forced the temporary closure of production," Chrysochou said. "While the factories had increased production in advance and continued working until such time as mandated for complete closure, they had built up some inventory. The factories were able to stay open, and have re-opened as they have been deemed essential in their supply of military and law enforcement and will continue to safely increase capacity with those products getting priority." In addition, there are some Beretta products manufactured in the United States. Sako, of Finland, continues to operate its plant.

"The question of supply diminishing is very real depending on global conditions. While we have supply now and on route, it can change at any time," Chrysochou added. "If there is consideration to purchase, it is best not to wait. The need to buy now is also compounded by the pressure of the US dollar and the cost of goods further pressured by cost of materials driving costs and in turn possibly retails up."

Adam Patterson, marketing manager with Hornady importer Korth Group, said there were big spikes in the early part of March. "It's still fairly consistent," he said. "The orders are still rolling in for ammo and reloading supplies." He said firearms and optics sales were also solid. "So far, there doesn't seem to be any disruption in the supply chain from our suppliers."

Getting more specific, he said there weren't delays from Hornady, Leupold or Ruger, but the MTM plant was recently closed in Ohio. The impact of the falling dollar was seen as soon as the Korth Group started replacing inventory.

In the early days, de Groot had concerns there could be large shortages, but that moderated with time. "One of our biggest importers, Vista from Federal ammunition, said their manufacturing has ramped up and they're not concerned about fulfilling Canadian orders at this time," she said. "Some individual retailers are running short of certain things, but for the most part supply seems to be moving around the country internally or still being imported from the US."

LICENSING ISSUES

Shutdowns are causing a couple of issues relating to licensing, de Groot



Dan Nagy, co-owner of Eli's Guns and Archery in Simcoe, Ont., made the decision to go to curbside pick-up only.

said with PALs expiring, there would be a backlog when the Canadian Firearms Centre in Miramichi starts again. Although the RCMP have given six months grace for renewals, and even provided this in writing in some cases, it is causing an issue for retailers.

"Our retailers are in a difficult situation because they are coming in with a printed piece of paper," she said. "Many of our retailers are not comfortable based on that."

The other issue is business licenses, which require annual renewal, aren't being renewed. This applies to more than just firearms retailer licenses. "Shipments are sitting at the border because the receiver is not able to pro-

duce a valid federal business license," de Groot said.

BETTER DAYS AHEAD?

With numerous Canadians growing vegetable gardens again, many have wondered if there will be an increased interest in hunting. "We do think coming out of this there will be a resurgence in people acquiring their PAL for the first time," de Groot said. "I think there's a genuine interest, especially among rural Canadians interested in both the hunting aspect and protection. It's not in line with Canadian law, but there is a growing interest on the part of Canadians to get licensed. It will be interesting to see how this plays out post-pandemic." 🏹



one gun's story

Eric Joubert

Rescue Mission



The two rifles the author helped save from the incinerator.

This is a tale of two rifles, one which left Connecticut in 1883 and the other in 1887. I wish I could tell you every detail about their long life; unfortunately, I can only tell you about the last few years, and more specifically about how they were saved from destruction.

My modest part of the story began a few years ago when a friend contacted me via social media. He had just brought a bunch of old guns home, around 20, and asked if I could help identify them. I've always been interested in firearms, and I believe I know more than the average person. But then the average person really doesn't know much about firearms, so I'm still no expert. That being clear, when I saw the first pictures of the collection, I quickly asked a colleague for his help, especially in Winchester matters.

My questions revealed this lot came from a deceased collector. Most of the guns were cut down Ross rifles, Carcanos, Iver-Johnsons, Mosin-Nagants, Cooney 39s and such. But there was also an Enfield-Snider and some Winchester lever actions. The mourning family had no interest in the collection and had

simply chosen to surrender everything to the police.

That's when a little miracle happened. It appears the officer on duty that day had a conscience. When he saw the guns, he recommended the person take them back home. "You should try to sell them to people who appreciate these kinds of antiques. Some may still have some value, and if my service takes charge of them, they will be destroyed."

For that, I say, "Bravo!" to the officer. Because while most of the guns were common and had no real value, others dated as far back as the Battle of Batoche, which involved Louis Riel.

So, the man simply returned home with a sad face, admitting his mission to dispose of the guns was a failure. That's when a friend of the brother-in-law, who had a cousin, made a phone call to my friend. When he arrived, he was shown the guns all together like they were a pile of scrap metal. However, in that small community, there was a project taking shape to create a heritage museum. The guns would look perfect on display at the museum, but they still had to be identified and tagged with

the right information. That's when I was contacted.

In the lot, there were some nice guns capable of appearing in a collector's dreams, with each gun thoroughly cleaned and maintained. The most beautiful was a Model 94 Winchester in 38-55 WCF dating from 1922. However, it was the Model 1876 in 50-95 Express dating from 1883 that attracted most of my attention. Not in the best shape, it had a stock glued together and a missing dustcover, but it was the first time I saw a Model 1876. The second interesting one was a Model 1886 in 45-70 Gov't dating from 1887. Of course, there were more humble guns, like an Iver-Johnson 12 gauge, but I'm betting it had some great hunting heritage and good stories to tell too. Who knows?

This all happened in a so-called remote area in the province of Quebec. At the time the guns were sold new (1860 to 1925), the area was just starting to develop. Most people were settlers, labourers and farmers, all working hard



The 50-95 Winchester Express is one of the rarer chamberings for the 1876 model.

The 1876 Winchester (top) is a deluxe version with a half-octagon barrel chambered for the 50-95 Winchester Express. The 1886 is a more standard version and chambered for the 45-70 Gov't.

to build a country and raising their families. I'm no historian or economist, but I seriously doubt those families could afford the luxury of owning a nice Winchester rifle, especially a deluxe version.

So, where did these fine rifles come from? Some rich CEO of the time who came to hunt moose? Maybe. Why not the owner of a newly built railway who liked salmon fishing? Our deceased collector could also have bought them somewhere else in Canada and brought them back to his hometown. No one can tell us.

The final twist of this story is the day the small heritage museum decided they needed more space, so opted to part with most of the guns. I heard about this when I happened to be in the area. The museum manager told me a gunsmith was supposed to come sometime during the week but had already said that nothing in the lot was interesting or had any value. Yes, I know! I immediately made an offer for the two rifles which had caught my attention before. Offer accepted. I later learned that my offer was three times the gunsmith's offer.

Back home, I did some more detailed research. I had both rifles lettered by the Cody Firearms Museum from Wyoming, the folks who are currently holding the archives from the old Winchester Repeating Arms company. I learned that a total of only 63,872 Model 1876s were produced. The one I have here is a deluxe version. It has a half-octagonal barrel and the stock is made of black walnut burl. Unfortunately, it's missing a dustcover, the tubular magazine was shortened and it was not always prop-



erly stored, causing some light surface rust. But it's still a rare rifle that was a special order in 1883.

If I were a rich man, I'd be tempted to have the Model 1876 professionally restored. It is also known as the centennial rifle, as it was first sold the same year as the US's centennial. Being a labourer myself, I'm proud to own such an exceptional rifle. Especially knowing it was almost destroyed. Shooting it is not my goal.

The Model 1886 is a more standard version dating from 1887 and with a five-digit serial number. So, we took it to the range, feeding it some 45-70 ammunition specially prepared to make sure the old lady could handle it. Some say the Model 1886 might be the best lever gun there is. It was designed by John Browning and was the first lever-action Winchester specifically made to handle large calibres to hunt big game. It quickly became a favourite with most hunters, explaining the short production life of the 1876. The 1886 is still being produced today, in Japan. Probably a better-quality

rifle, but, in my humble opinion, not a real Winchester.

I'm not a collector myself, so maybe I didn't really deserve to get my hands on these two nice pieces of our heritage. The good news is I'm not going to mess them up. And I'm still one of the guys who saved them from the incinerator. But the best part is that I have two sons who will take over one day, and make sure incineration is not going to happen anytime soon. 🍷

EDITOR'S NOTE: We all know that every gun has a story to tell, so if you have a gun with a fascinating story behind it, let us know. The gun can be old or new, and the story can be funny, sad or historical. It doesn't matter, as long as it's a great tale. If need be, we'll help you write the story or maybe even assign one of our writers to tackle it. Write the editor at editor@nfa.ca.



point blank

Chris McGarry

You Will Always Be Your Own First Responder



You are your own first responder. The police exist to investigate crimes after they've already occurred.

civilian firearms ownership, suddenly found themselves with the desire to have them. One evening, I turned on the news to find myself watching a series of stories that at first had me knocked for six. Scores of urbanites in Toronto, Vancouver and other major cities, fearful for their lives and property, descended upon local sporting goods stores in the hopes of buying the proper means of protection. Truth truly is stranger than fiction at times.

Anyway, in keeping with strict adherence to Canada's onerous firearm licensing

Common sense should dictate that in times of crisis, having access to firearms can mean the difference between life and death. Furthermore, it goes without saying that the job of law enforcement agencies is to act as a deterrent to crime and investigate offenses after they've already occurred, not give every citizen individual protection.

In Canada, the global COVID-19 pandemic brought with it not only economic malaise, but also a sharp increase in certain crimes in the country's urban centres. Vancouver police, in addition to reporting a jump in hate crimes against Asian Canadians, told of a 147 percent increase in commercial break-ins between March 18 and April 15, while York Regional Police responded to a record 22 percent increase in domestic violence incidents during those same months. Meanwhile, Toronto Police Service reported increases not only in shootings, but also in home invasions.

With stable society suddenly finding itself in such a state of uncertainty and fear, is it any wonder that firearms

sales skyrocketed coast to coast during this pandemic? Some sporting goods stores reported selling out their entire stock, while one Ontario-based gun store owner (as reported by Canada's National Firearms Association in the National Telegram on April 2, 2020) is on record stating that at least half of all buyers were women who felt they needed something for protection. So much for the anti-gun propaganda spewed forth by the likes of Heidi Rathjen and the Coalition for Gun Control, who with great folly still advocate for disarmament as a way of keeping women safe.

Perhaps this shift during the COVID-19 crisis has also shone a very bright light on an issue that has been a lightning rod of controversy in this country for decades: firearms ownership, specifically for self-defense purposes.

While Canadians with PALs (possession and acquisition licenses) were buying firearms and ammunition like proverbial hotcakes, others who perhaps had little use for firearms in the past, or were even hostile to

laws, vendors told these customers that no firearms could be sold without a PAL, which, as we all know, none of them had.

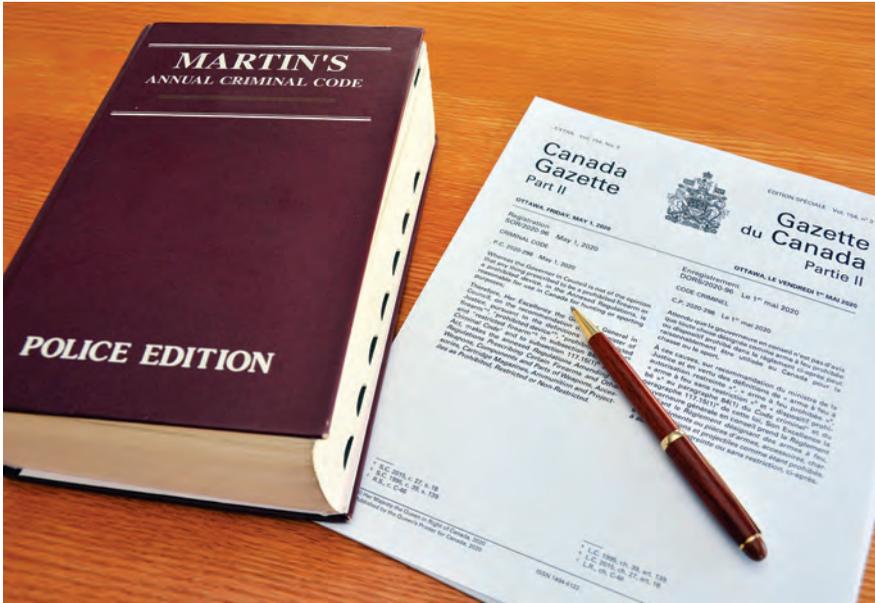
Given that Canada's population demographic is predominantly urban, could this be a turning point in public attitudes toward civilian firearms ownership? Perhaps, but keep in mind that continuous studies and polls indicate that Canadians, like their counterparts in other western nations, have already been losing their public appetite for gun control, as well as further restrictions, for the past few decades.

One need not be a Rhodes Scholar to figure out that these laws have no effect on criminal behaviour. But, if there is a lesson to learn from this pandemic – at least with regards to civilian firearms ownership – it's something that many on the anti side denied or simply never gave a considerable amount of thought to until now: You are your own first responder. The police exist to investigate crimes after they've already occurred. You can choose to be a helpless victim, or you can fight back. 🇨🇦

Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

The Liberal's Gun Ban Of May 1, 2020



This time, the topic of this column was self evident. If it seems a little late to you, please understand that the CFJ deadline for handing in columns is roughly two months before publication. Thus, I am writing this in early May 2020.

On May 1, 2020, Canada's minority Liberal government took advantage of Canada's worst-ever mass shooting to implement a ban on more than 1,500 models of firearms owned and used by law-abiding Canadian gun owners for hunting, sport shooting and collection purposes. Of course, none of these new rules would have in any way prevented the occurrence of the Nova Scotia mass murders. Indeed, the perpetrator had obtained his firearms illegally, by smuggling them from the United States and stealing a handgun from a murdered RCMP officer.

But why let facts and the truth get in the way of a political initiative that may ultimately be popular with the Liberal electorate? The Liberals seized that golden opportunity and on May 1, 2020, they came down with an Order in Council that instantaneously prohibited more than 1,500 different models of firearms.

WHAT IS AN ORDER IN COUNCIL?

An Order in Council (OIC) is a legislative instrument enacted by the governor in council. The latter is a reference to the federal cabinet, who acts as counsel to the Queen, represented by the governor general. In lay terms, it is a decision of the federal cabinet that is rubber stamped by the governor general.

In this instance, the OIC does two things:

It amends existing regulations, to add multiple categories of firearms to the list of prohibited firearms; and

It implements a temporary two-year amnesty, with very restrictive terms.

WHY AN AMNESTY?

The amnesty is required because the cabinet did not grandfather existing owners, although it had the power to do so. In other words, the cabinet made the possession of any of those firearms illegal the moment the OIC was released. It did not matter to them that you had purchased those firearms with your hard-earned money, with the blessing of government agencies and often with the express approval of a chief firearms officer, that you are

The government has enacted an Order in Council that instantly prohibits more than 1500 models of firearms.

Le gouvernement a adopté un décret qui rend prohibées, avec effet immédiat, plus de 1500 modèles d'armes à feu.

amongst the least violent demographic in Canada, or that you never used them for unlawful purposes.

The amnesty allows you to keep your own property for up to two years without being criminally prosecuted. There is one caveat: you cannot use it, sell it or otherwise dispose of it. You cannot even take it out of your house unless you mean to get it deactivated or surrender it to police (without compensation.) If that sounds to you like theft on the part of the government, you are not alone in sharing that feeling. Despite being the one acting like a thief, the government is treating you like a criminal.

You are now required to store your newly prohibited firearm safely, and patiently wait for the government to come up with legislation that will provide for the forced surrender of your property, in exchange for yet-to-be-determined financial compensation, or not.

WHERE DOES THAT POWER COME FROM?

The power to enact an OIC that prescribes certain firearms as prohibited is derived from Sections 84 and 117.15 of the Criminal Code. Essentially, the government can change the rules of the game, without need for reverting to an act of parliament. There is no bill filed in the House of Commons, no consultation of stakeholders, no debate and no vote. If this sounds like totalitarianism, you are not entirely wrong.

However, that power is not absolute, although Mr. Blair and Mr. Trudeau act as if they think otherwise. Indeed, Paragraph two of Section 117.15 of the Criminal Code provides that it cannot be used to prohibit firearms that are reasonable for use in connection with



hunting or sport, in the opinion of the governor in council.

A COURT CHALLENGE

As you may have heard, on May 6, 2020, my colleague, Solomon Friedman, announced that he is launching a court challenge, in federal court, of the May 1, 2020, OIC. His challenge is based upon the notion that the governor in council's power to prescribe certain firearms as being prohibited is not unlimited and must be based upon evidence, sound advice and reasoning, as opposed to political whim, opportunism or ideology.

By the time you read this column, I will have filed a motion for leave to intervene in that court challenge on behalf of the NFA. Hopefully, the NFA's intervention in this court challenge will allow the representation before the court of the interest of all individuals who are personally affected by this ban. As an intervenor, the NFA may be able to present evidence and arguments that will supplement those brought by Mr. Friedman's client.

One aspect that the NFA intends to argue is that, in effect, the OIC amounts to an expropriation without compensation, which is not allowed by

the enabling legislation the OIC is based upon. Indeed, although there is a reference to future legislation in the OIC, that legislation is hypothetical. An OIC is either valid or it is not. Its validity cannot be based upon future, hypothetical and currently non-existent legislation. In lay terms, this is an abuse of executive power by the federal cabinet. Canadian law is clear: there can be no expropriation without compensation unless there is clear and unambiguous language in the enabling statute. In this instance, the Criminal Code (which is the enabling statute) contains no such language.

There are other aspects which will be argued, of course.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE NFA'S EFFORTS

Legal challenges are not cheap. Indeed, they require extensive human and financial resources. Both Mr. Friedman's client and the NFA need your financial support to succeed in this endeavour. This effort, if successful, will benefit you irrespective of whether you own any of the newly prohibited rifles. If you believe this does not concern you, you are a fool. Indeed, both the prime minister and Minister Blair have

made it clear they will not stop at this. Other firearms will be prohibited in the future, until there are few, if any, left in the hands of hunters, collectors or sport shooters. It happened in Australia, it is happening in New Zealand, and it will happen in Canada unless we do something about it. 🇨🇦



Numerous bolt-action rifles, including this 460 Weatherby Magnum, are now prohibited.

Plusieurs carabines à verrou, dont cette carabine chargée en 460 Weatherby Magnum, sont désormais prohibées.

Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

L'interdiction de certaines armes à feu par décret

Cette fois-ci, le sujet de cette chronique s'est imposé de lui-même. Si cette chronique vous semble quelque peu tardive, veuillez comprendre que la date limite de remise des chroniques est d'environ deux mois avant la publication du CFJ. C'est ainsi que je rédige cette chronique au début du mois de mai 2020.

Le 1er mai 2020, le gouvernement libéral minoritaire du Canada a profité de la pire fusillade de masse jamais survenue au Canada pour interdire plus de 1 500 modèles d'armes à feu utilisés par des individus qui ne sont pas des criminels, à des fins de chasse, de

tir sportif ou dans le cadre d'une collection. Bien entendu, aucune de ces nouvelles règles n'aurait empêché de quelque façon que ce soit les meurtres survenus en Nouvelle-Écosse. En fait, le meurtrier avait obtenu ses armes à feu illégalement, en les faisant passer clandestinement des États-Unis et en dérobant le pistolet de l'agent de la GRC qu'il a assassiné.

Dans ce contexte, pourquoi laisser les faits et la vérité se mettre en travers d'une initiative politique qui pourrait s'avérer être populaire auprès de l'électorat libéral. Les libéraux ont donc saisi cette occasion en or et, le 1er mai 2020, ils ont

adopté un décret qui interdisait instantanément plus de 1 500 modèles différents d'armes à feu.

QU'EST-CE QU'UN DÉCRET?

Un décret est un instrument législatif adopté par le « gouverneur en conseil ». Ce dernier est en fait le Cabinet, qui agit à titre de « conseiller » de la reine, représentée par le gouverneur général. En termes simples, c'est une décision du Cabinet fédéral qui est entérinée par le gouverneur général.

Dans ce cas, le décret fait deux choses:

Il modifie un Règlement existant, afin d'ajouter plusieurs catégories d'armes à feu à la liste des armes à feu déjà prohibées; et

Il met en œuvre une amnistie temporaire de deux (2) ans, avec des conditions très restrictives.

POURQUOI Y A-T-IL UNE AMNISTIE ?

L'amnistie est nécessaire parce que le Cabinet n'a pas cru bon d'accorder des droits acquis aux propriétaires existants, bien qu'il ait eu le pouvoir de le faire. En d'autres termes, le Cabinet a rendu illégale la possession de l'une ou l'autre de ces armes à feu par leurs propriétaires légitimes, dès la publication du décret. Il ne leur importait pas que vous ayez acheté ces armes à feu avec votre argent durement gagné, avec la bénédiction des organismes gouvernementaux et souvent avec l'approbation expresse d'un contrôleur des armes à feu, que vous soyez parmi les groupes démographiques les moins violents au Canada ou que vous ne les ayez jamais utilisées à des fins illégales.

L'amnistie vous permet de conserver vos propres biens jusqu'à deux ans sans être poursuivi au criminel, en raison du simple fait que vous les possédez. Il y a toutefois un aléa, et il est majeur: vous ne pouvez pas les utiliser, les vendre ou autrement en disposer. Vous ne pouvez même pas les sortir de votre lieu de résidence, à moins que vous ne le fassiez pour les faire désactiver ou les remettre aux forces policières (sans indemnité ou contrepartie). Si cela vous semble être un vol de la part du gouvernement, vous n'êtes pas les seuls à partager ce sentiment. Bien qu'il agisse lui-même tel un voleur, le gouvernement vous traite comme un criminel.

Vous êtes maintenant tenu d'entreposer votre arme à feu nouvellement interdite en toute sécurité, et devez patiemment attendre que le gouvernement adopte une loi qui prévoit la cession forcée de vos biens, en échange d'une compensation financière encore à déterminer. Une telle loi pourrait ne jamais être adoptée!

D'OÙ VIENT CE POUVOIR ?

Le pouvoir de « prescrire » par décret que certaines armes à feu sont désormais prohibées provient des articles 84 et 117.15 du Code criminel. Essentiellement, le gouvernement peut modifier certaines des règles du jeu, sans avoir besoin de recourir à une loi du Parlement. Dans un tel cas, il n'y a pas de projet de loi déposé à la Chambre des communes, pas de consultation des intéressés, pas de débat ni de vote. Si vous croyez que cela ressemble à une approche totalitaire, vous n'avez pas tout à fait tort!

Toutefois, ce pouvoir n'est pas absolu, même si MM. Blair et Trudeau agissent parfois comme si le contraire était vrai. En fait, le paragraphe 2 du Code criminel 117.15 prévoit que ce pouvoir ne peut pas être utilisé pour rendre prohibées les armes à feu qui sont raisonnables pour une utilisation en lien avec la chasse ou le sport, de l'avis du gouverneur en conseil.

UN RECOURS JUDICIAIRE

Comme vous l'avez peut-être lu ou entendu, le 6 mai 2020, mon collègue Solomon Friedman a annoncé qu'il déposait, devant la Cour fédérale, une contestation judiciaire du décret du 1er mai 2020. Son recours est fondé sur les limites du pouvoir du Cabinet de décréter que certaines armes à feu doivent être considérées comme prohibées. Ce pouvoir n'est pas illimité et doit être fondé sur des preuves, des opinions et un raisonnement critique, et non pas exercé en raison de caprices politiques, par opportunisme ou pour des motifs idéologiques.

Au moment où vous lirez cette chronique, j'aurai moi-même déposé une requête en autorisation d'intervenir dans cette contestation judiciaire au nom de la NFA. La NFA entend y représenter les intérêts de

la collectivité des personnes qui sont affectées par cette interdiction. En tant qu'intervenante, la NFA désire être en mesure de présenter des éléments de preuve et des arguments qui compléteront ceux présentés par le client de M. Friedman.

Un aspect que la NFA entend soulever est qu'en fait, le décret équivaut à une expropriation sans compensation, ce qui n'est pas permis par la loi habilitante sur laquelle repose le décret. En fait, bien qu'il y ait une référence à une législation future dans le décret, cette législation est pour l'instant hypothétique. Un décret n'est valide que s'il respecte les balises de la loi en vertu de laquelle il est émis. Sa validité ne peut être fondée sur une législation future, hypothétique et encore inexistante. Le droit canadien est clair: il ne peut y avoir d'expropriation sans compensation à moins qu'il n'y ait un libellé clair et sans ambiguïté dans la loi habilitante. En l'espèce, le Code criminel (qui est la loi habilitante) ne contient pas de tels termes. En termes simples, il s'agit d'un abus du pouvoir exécutif de la part du Cabinet fédéral.

Il y a d'autres aspects qui seront discutés bien sûr.

LA NFA A BESOIN DE VOUS

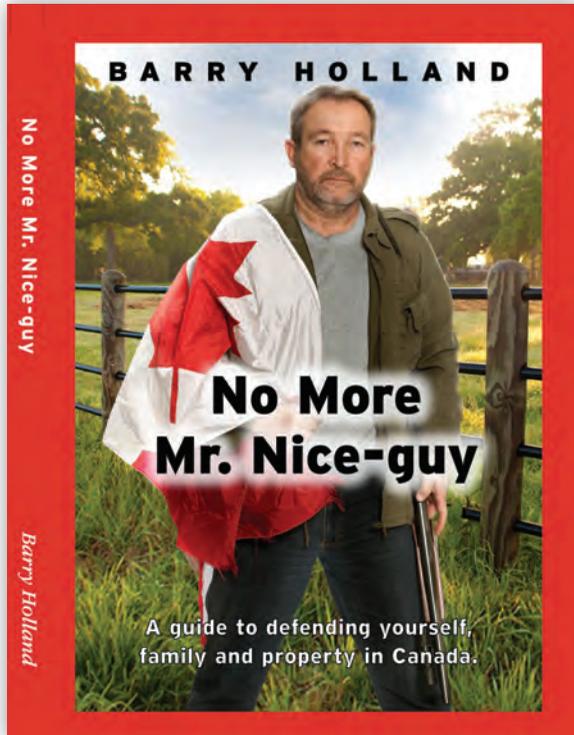
Les contestations judiciaires sont longues et coûteuses. En effet, elles nécessitent des ressources humaines et financières considérables. Le client de M. Friedman et la NFA ont besoin de votre soutien financier pour que cette entreprise soit couronnée de succès. En cas de succès, cela vous sera bénéfique, que vous possédiez l'une ou l'autre des armes à feu nouvellement interdites. Si vous croyez que cela ne vous concerne pas, vous faites de l'aveuglement volontaire. En fait, le premier ministre et le ministre Blair ont dit clairement qu'ils ne s'arrêteraient pas de sitôt. D'autres armes à feu seront prohibées dans les mois et années qui viennent, jusqu'à ce qu'il n'en reste que peu, voire aucune, entre les mains des chasseurs, des collectionneurs et des tireurs sportifs. C'est arrivé en Australie. C'est ce qui est en train d'arriver en Nouvelle-Zélande, et cela se produira au Canada si nous ne faisons rien à ce sujet. 



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

No More Mr. Nice-guy



No More Mr. Nice-guy is the most controversial book I have reviewed over the past 10 years.

Discussions regarding defending yourself, family and property in Canada will usually invoke distinctly different points of view. Unfortunately, the opinions expressed are often based solely on emotion and exhibit little understanding of laws affecting potential encounters. The dangers one might face in a real-life situation are not considered and neither are the legal implications.

Author Barry Holland has lived a life full of occupations, training and experiences which have provided him with extensive knowledge related to standing up against criminals who wish to steal your property, harm or even kill you. Canadian citizens clearly hope their friends or family members will never be in such a dilemma. Although inexperienced, most would provide any assistance possible, which may

help, but might also escalate the danger.

Holland clearly supports the rights of law-abiding citizens and exhibits no empathy for criminals who wish to violate those rights. He explains why citizens should prepare well in advance for a potentially deadly situation with knowledge, resources and tactical skills.

Preparation includes an extensive understanding of the Criminal Code of Canada and how it applies to defending yourself, family and property. Canadian law can be complicated, so this book explains:

The laws related to defending yourself, family and property

How to protect your home and all you hold dear

Basic techniques and tactics to help you develop skills and maintain the advantage in a threat situation

How to deal with authorities after you prevail against a criminal

The contents page lists over 70 topics relevant to defending life or property. Each section is highly informative yet written in Holland's easy-to-comprehend style. Examples of actual confrontations shared will evoke both extensive thought and questions.

The final 28 pages provide Criminal Code offences and applicable precedents. This section could save many hours of research by lawyers and their assistants, and by extension save you many thousands of dollars in legal fees.

No More Mr. Nice-guy is appropriate for any person who wishes to be prepared should they become the victim of theft, burglary, assault, home invasion or even an attack due to mistaken identity. It is a book not intended to be simply read and stored away on a shelf. Readers will find it beneficial to highlight text, make notes in the margin and place markers for easy access to certain sections. It would be a thought-provoking addition to any policing or law course.

No More Mr. Nice-guy is available at over 40 retailers across western Canada. It can be ordered online at www.weprotectforyou.com for \$35, including shipping to anywhere in Canada. Barry Holland is available for workshops and presentations. Contact him directly at nomoremrniceguy@weprotectforyou.com, call or text to 780-690-1658, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/canadafightscime. 

Title: No More Mr. Nice-guy: A Guide To Defending Yourself, Family And Property In Canada

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FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
RESPONSIBILITY.



NO COMPROMISE.