

CANADIAN

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TYPE 81 KOBRA SIDE MOUNT

Introducing the Legendary Kobra Red Dot Sight for the Type 81. The Kobra Sight is an easy to use, versatile and durable red dot with integrated side mount. The side mount installation is completely reversible and does not involve any drilling or permanent alterations to the rifle. Fits all versions. Compatible with Left Hand Shooting.

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CANADIAN **FIREARMS JOURNAL**

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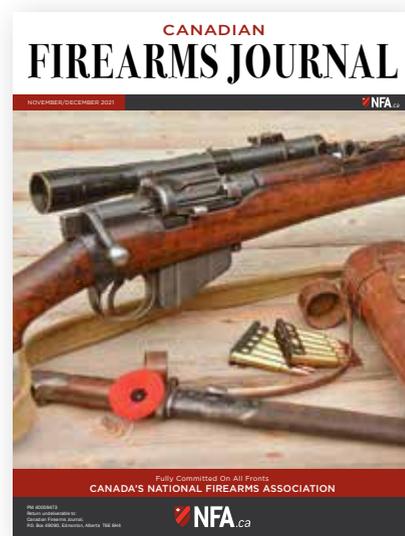
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

As a nod to Remembrance Day, this issue's cover is graced by the presence of a Short Magazine Lee-Enfield Mk III, chambered, of course, for the 303 British cartridge. This rifle is of British manufacture and marked with a 1915 date, indicating wartime production. The Mk III entered service in 1907 and wasn't replaced by the No. 4 Mk I until about the beginning of the Second World War. The telescopic sight attached to this old girl was made by the Periscope Prism Co. of London and is also dated 1915. Unfortunately, the serial numbers don't match. The rifle's owner allowed us to photograph the rifle in exchange for promising to write a feature story on the rifle's history. Look for it in a 2022 issue of the *CFJ*. 



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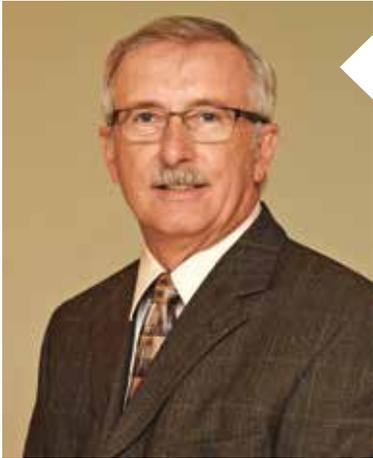
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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Changes



tions to their guns. Lowell Strauss is starting us off with a simple way to build a gun cart from an old jogging stroller. We have several other great DIY projects in the pipeline and I'm sure you'll enjoy them all. And if you have a make-your-own project you think

is worth sharing, reach out to me and let me know about it. Maybe we can slot it in.

There's lots of other content here as well. Collectors should check out the story about John Hipwell and his Lancaster pistol collection, as well as the profile of well-known Maritime collector and dealer Joe Salter. We also have some advice on secure firearm storage, a review of the Franchi Momentum rifle, a look at Colt's 1991 pistol and a Christmas gift list for your consideration.

Whatever you do, don't let the election results get you down. All wars have victories and setbacks. Putting your guns to use at the range or in the hunting fields is great therapy right now. And if you take a non-gun owner with you and introduce them to the shooting sports, you'll have notched up another victory. And don't forget to take a moment this Remembrance Day to recognize those who fought to keep our freedom to do that. 

Here we go with what looks like another few years of Liberal government. I have no doubt their hostile attitude toward gun ownership will continue, so be prepared to continue fighting legal and political battles to enjoy your firearms. However, I'll leave my political remarks there and suggest you see the comments of Sheldon and Blair elsewhere in this issue for a complete analysis of what all the election results mean.

While it appears the government hasn't changed, we are making a few changes to the CFJ. Most notably, you'll see the last page no longer has the long-running NFA Bookshelf column occupying that space. Bill Rantz, the long-time author of that column, has decided to retire his keyboard and enjoy a well-deserved "real" retirement. Bill has done a great job of reviewing books for us and we're sorry to see him go. He's certainly kept us informed on good reads and over the years I've

added several books to my library based on his recommendations.

I'm not even going to try to fill Bill's shoes, so it's time for a change. As a result, we'll keep the review aspect of the back page going, but we'll be changing the focus from strictly books to any Canadian-manufactured product. Thus, we're calling it Made In Canada, and it'll focus on Canadian products made here, for the shooting sports and Canadian gun owners. I'm particularly interested in great products which for whatever reason haven't received the exposure they deserve. So, if you have some suggestions, drop me an e-mail and let me know what you think we should highlight.

Starting with this issue and running through all of 2022, we'll also be running a DIY feature every issue called Make Your Own. I've often marveled at how creative gun owners are, and how they like to make their own firearm accessories or perform useful modifica-



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

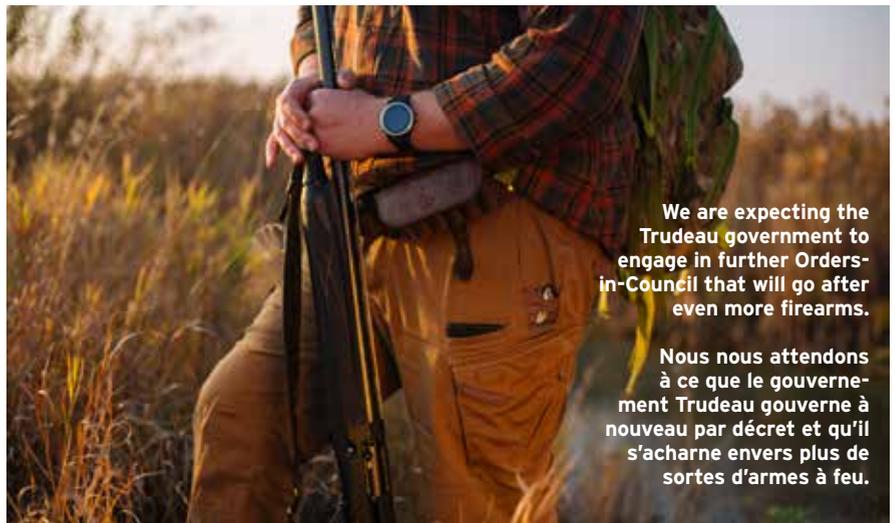
Staying Steady & Focused

First, I want to thank all the NFA members and supporters who worked so hard in the election to promote and support their preferred candidates. We put on an impressive effort as a third party in this election, and we managed to protect and support several seats. Our efforts were strategic and targeted, with a clear aim of preventing the Liberals from achieving the majority they so desperately wanted. In that, we seem to have succeeded, although at the time of writing there are absentee and other ballots awaiting counting which will affect some of the results.

Lessons learned from this election to apply for the next one: First, the opposition CPC needs to purge its backroom and develop policies that work for conservative supporters. Clearly, pandering to left-of-centre voters has failed yet again. Isolating base supporters and appearing to flip flop on key issues has significantly hurt the party's ability to be the big blue tent it claims to be. There are strategic and operational decisions that hurt the CPC chances. These included a top-down approach that was not consultative and campaign flip-flops, which sowed dissent in the base.

Many voters stayed home, and quite a few voted for minor parties that had no chance of electing candidates. It is possible that vote shifts away from the CPC cost the party something like 19 seats which were attainable. O'Toole and his team will have contemplated their respective futures and made some hard choices by the time you read this column. The leader to replace O'Toole, if that is what happens, will need to be much more populist, aggressive and steady in the face of challenges and controversy than his or her predecessors.

Our decision to register with Elec-



tions Canada happened much earlier than any other group. Our plan to make use of a focused and well-crafted multi-media campaign was effective. The uncertainty caused by CPC position shifts was unhelpful, but we managed to stay focused on our plan and we caused a great deal of angst for Liberal candidates. Our efforts successfully attracted significant earned media, which furthered our message.

Lessons learned include once again starting early and building a strong war chest to be ready for the next election. Another lesson learned is that we need more of us to be involved in party politics, at least locally, but also higher up to better influence policy. Our lobbying efforts must increase, and we need to reach more MPs who may not be fully aware of our capabilities.

We can be proud that we made a difference. One resulting factor is that Trudeau will have to take responsibility for the imminent economic crisis, which will quite likely happen on his watch.

So, the question for firearms owners is simple: What's next? Well, now that the election is over without a strong national mandate for any party, and considerable resistance to every political choice, the NFA will need to redouble its efforts. The campaign for the next election started Sept. 21. Our issues need to be re-emphasized, and we will continue to identify our political allies and enemies. Make no mistake – the Liberals really hate us. We are expecting the Trudeau government to engage in further Orders-in-Council that will go after even more firearms. Be ready to fight that fight as it develops.

Our court fight on the OiC will need to be the focus in the short term, and a victory there is essential. Really though, it will be about the next election, being present to drive effective policies and choosing steady and reliable people to serve Canadians. Stay steady, stay focused and keep the pressure up. Keep your firearms oiled and your powder dry, and never, ever give up your guns. 🍷

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Gardons le cap

En premier lieu, je veux remercier tous nos membres et sympathisants qui ont travaillé si fort durant les élections pour promouvoir et appuyer leurs candidats préférés. Notre travail en tant que tierce partie fût impressionnant et nous avons réussi à protéger et soutenir plusieurs sièges. Nos efforts ont été ciblés et stratégiques pour empêcher les Libéraux d'atteindre la majorité qu'ils voulaient si désespérément. Il semble que nous ayons réussi, mais au moment d'écrire ces lignes il reste des votes par procuration et d'autres bulletins de vote qui n'ont pas encore été comptés et qui pourront affecter certains résultats.

Voici les leçons apprises que nous devons appliquer envers les prochaines élections: Premièrement, le PCC étant le parti d'opposition, doit purger ses coulisses et développer des politiques qui conviennent à ses sympathisants conservateurs. Essayer de faire plaisir à ceux du centre gauche est une stratégie qui a échoué à nouveau. D'isoler sa base, et de changer d'idée à propos d'enjeux importants a fait du mal à la capacité du Parti d'être la grande tente bleue qu'il prétendait être. Il y a eu des décisions stratégiques et opérationnelles qui ont diminuées les chances du PCC d'être élu. L'approche de gestion hiérarchique du haut en bas sans consultations et des changements d'idées durant la campagne ont créé de la dissidence à sa base.

Plusieurs électeurs sont restés à la maison tandis que d'autres ont voté pour des partis mineurs qui n'avaient aucune chance de faire élire des candidats. Il est possible que ces votes aient coûté environ 19 sièges au PCC. O'Toole et son équipe auront analysé leurs avenir respectifs et fait des choix difficiles lorsque vous lirez cet article. Le chef qui remplacera O'Toole, s'il y a lieu, devra être beaucoup plus populiste, agressif et ferme devant les défis



We put on an impressive effort as a third party in this election, and we managed to protect and support several seats.

Notre travail en tant que tierce partie fût impressionnant et nous avons réussi à protéger et soutenir plusieurs sièges.

et controverses.

Nous nous sommes enregistrés avec Élections Canada avant tous les autres groupes. Notre plan de faire une campagne multimédia bien ciblée a été très efficace. L'incertitude créée par les changements de positions du PCC ne nous a pas aidé mais nous avons réussi à nous concentrer sur notre plan et nous avons fait faire de l'angoisse aux candidats Libéraux. Nos efforts ont attiré l'attention des médias qui nous a aidé à transmettre notre message d'avantage.

Une autre leçon est de se préparer longtemps d'avance et de ramasser les fonds nécessaires pour être prêts quand la prochaine élection sera déclenchée. Un autre point est, que nous devons être encore plus nombreux à nous impliquer en politique, au moins localement mais aussi à un plus haut niveau pour pouvoir influencer les politiques du parti. Notre lobbying doit augmenter et nous devons atteindre plus de députés qui ne connaissent peut être pas l'ampleur de nos capacités.

Nous devons être fiers d'avoir fait une différence. Trudeau devra assumer la pleine responsabilité de la crise économique imminente qui s'annonce pendant qu'il sera Premier Ministre.

Alors la question que se demandent les propriétaires d'armes à feu est: Qu'arrivera t'il maintenant? Vu que l'élection est terminée, sans mandat national clair pour aucun parti et qu'il y a beaucoup de résistance envers tous les choix politiques, l'ACAF doit redoubler ses efforts. La prochaine campagne électorale commence maintenant, le 21 septembre 2021. Nous devons promouvoir nos enjeux à nouveau et continuer d'identifier nos alliés et nos ennemis politiques. Les Libéraux nous détestent vraiment, croyez moi. Nous nous attendons à ce que le gouvernement Trudeau gouverne à nouveau par décret et qu'il s'acharne envers plus de sortes d'armes à feu. Soyez prêts à vous battre au fur et à mesure que les événements se présenteront.

À court terme, nous devons nous concentrer sur notre poursuite contre le décret du mois de mai 2020. Une victoire en ce sens, est essentielle. Mais vraiment, nous devons être prêts pour la prochaine élection, nous devons mettre de l'avant des politiques efficaces et choisir des gens fermes et fiables pour servir les Canadiens. Restez fermes, gardez le cap et ne lâchez pas la pression. Gardez vos armes huilées, votre poudre sèche et ne jamais abandonner vos armes. 🇨🇦



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Status Quo



The Liberals focused on firearms this election, and it failed.

Well, it's done, and nothing really changed. The most important result of the just concluded federal election is Justin Trudeau was again denied the lost majority government of his original 2016 mandate. And that was the whole point of this election for the Liberal Party. In a way, it was a referendum on the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau. Could they regain the trust of Canadians by receiving a massive endorsement of their government and their legislative agenda?

Here's what we can learn from this election.

Bereft of any real accomplishments as government, or any real solutions or policies to issues that affect Canadians, the Liberals attempted to drive the firearms issue as a main focus to demand Canadians return them as a majority government. It was all, "Ban guns, ban assault weapons." This was the issue that would return them to majority status in Parliament.

They failed. Nobody listened. Nobody heard. Few of their potential voters even cared.

The Liberals made overtures to anti-gun voters they already had, the imagi-

ISTOCK

nary votes they thought would flock to them with promises of more gun bans and attacks on the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians failed to materialize. The Liberals accomplished absolutely nothing and cost Canadian's millions of tax dollars, which were needlessly spent on Justin Trudeau's ego gambit to get back that majority needed to govern with any credibility and advance the Liberal agenda.

For other parties, it breaks down like this.

The Conservative Party of Canada: Lack of clarity on the firearms issue cost them votes. Erin O'Toole's CPC had fairly solid firearms law reform policies, but mistakes, missteps and fuzzy messaging caused some rights-and-freedoms voters to again desert to Maxime Bernier's People's Party out of mistrust and frustration. The CPC cannot take the firearms vote for granted. That should be plainly evident from the implosion of the old Progressive Conservative Party back in 1993 when rights-and-freedoms voters looked elsewhere for a political vehicle to replace the party of civil disarmament they had become. It should also be plainly evident from the loss of rights-and-freedoms votes in 2016, when many drifted away after the politically cautious and incomplete half measure firearms law reforms of the Harper government.

Canadian voters who believe in rights and freedoms have choices and will take their votes elsewhere if they believe their issues are not taken seriously. It's the snowball effect, and it is all downhill for political parties who persist in taking their core voters for granted in search of some imagined mushy middle ground consensus on fundamental issues such as this one. You either support rights and freedoms or you don't. Voters will see through it.

The People's Party of Canada: Once again, I must remind those of you who, in your heart of hearts and votes, supported the PPC, protest votes are only an option when you run out of any real options. You need a government to accomplish legislative change.

I have a lot of time for populist parties, having supported the Reform Party and movement in the past. Sometimes it is necessary to abandon mainstream parties that have become so divorced from their core issues and core voters that they are beyond redemption, and then seek a restructuring of the political landscape in Canada. It's been done before, at great but necessary political and social cost.

That was not going to occur in 2021 for the PPC. Maybe next time. Maybe never. The PPC won almost a million votes in this election, but the leader couldn't win his own seat and nether

could any of his candidates. Did PPC voters send a message? Sure, they did, but that's all they did.

The upshot to all of this is that, according to the Liberal leader, we go back to the polls in 12 to 18 months. The Liberal Party cannot legislate or govern Canada without a clear mandate, and they do not have one now. The lamest of lame ducks, Justin Trudeau represents Toronto and Montreal, but few other places in Canada.

He is not really of Canada; he is of elsewhere. He is of a place where the rights, freedoms, culture and realities of average Canadians are foreign to him. He doesn't live in an environment of ever-increasing bills and crushing taxes, nor does he face the hell of the irresponsible Liberal economic and social policies you and I face every day.

Economic disaster, social confusion and upheaval are reality in Canada, while the Liberal PM fiddles and recites prose in his garden to the delight of his enlightened admirers. Out of touch and out of time, this Liberal government lives on borrowed time until politics once again shift and Canadians replace them.

Did the 2021 election campaign actually end? Or has it just instantly morphed into the next election campaign? Regardless, the next election campaign starts now, and Canada's National Firearms Association is ready. 



Nathaniel Milljour



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Failed Assumptions

Liberal gun policies, like so many of their policies, are based on failed assumptions which they've clung to decade after decade for purely ideological reasons. A recent noteworthy example is the Afghanistan disaster. Distain led to neglect, and a perfectly predictable crisis was drifted into with bureaucratic sloth and a complete lack of effective planning. The crisis triggered the usual Liberal response of virtue signaling and talk backed up with more talk. Their "soft power" bromide reached peak unreality with the minister of women and gender equity, no less, calling the brutal, misogynistic, fundamentalists of the Taliban "our brothers" and politely requesting that they "allow women and the voices of minority groups to be heard in a meaningful way." All based on the failed assumption that everyone shares Liberal goals and methods and is just waiting for the invitation to join their sunny ways.

A rational examination of Liberal gun policy reveals the same pattern of failed assumptions relentlessly held in the face of decades long failure. The first of these assumptions is the lunatic guns-cause-crime howler. The second is that crime control can actually be achieved through the control of inanimate objects.

GUNS CAUSE CRIME

This assumption can be traced back to the 1930s when pacifists sold the idea that the pre-war arms race caused the First World War. This exactly reversed the actual cause and effect since it was international disputes that caused the armaments race, not the other way around. Another justification was the 1967 article, Weapons as Aggression-Eliciting Stimuli by psychologists Leonard Berkowitz and Anthony LePage, which postulated that the mere presence of a firearm caused violence. Curiously, this "weapons effect" has never been observed at gun shows, gun shops or firearm factories. A rational person would observe that people act because they choose to do so, not because they



The idea that firearms cause violence has never been observed at gun shows, gun shops or firearm factories.

are pawns to the magical influences of inanimate objects.

If we turn to international comparisons, we find that the US, with the highest gun ownership rate in the world, has a homicide rate that is half the world average. There are around 90 countries that have higher homicide rates than the US and every one has a lower gun ownership rate. (UN data) How is this possible if guns supposedly cause violence?

There is another recent example from the US, a favourite source for anti-gun factoids. Using Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives records of manufacturing, importing and exporting of all firearms, we find that in a 16-year period (1994 to 2010), civilian gun ownership increased by 93,965,151 firearms, including 40,681,376 handguns. During the same period, overall homicides dropped 37 per cent,

firearms homicides dropped 36 per cent and handgun homicides dropped 47 per cent. Perhaps this explains why the Liberal's evidence justifying the May 1 gun ban has been classified a cabinet secret hidden even from the courts.

CONTROLLING INANIMATE OBJECTS

The strategy of controlling crime by controlling inanimate objects is a strange twist for law enforcement. For example, we don't control speeding by controlling the size of car engines. However, it is directly related to the guns-cause-crime myth. Since the argument that criminals are "entrapped" into using guns is too bizarre for sale to the public, we often hear the claim most gun crimes are committed by normal, regular people who "acted on impulse" when a gun is "available."

The actual criminological facts, widely known, are that almost all gun

crimes are committed by people with a pre-disposition and long history of violence. In 2000, 67 per cent of persons accused of homicide had a criminal record, and 69 per cent of these had previously been convicted of violent crimes. At the same time, 52 per cent of homicide victims also had a criminal record. Firearm-related homicides are also more likely to be connected to organized crime or street gang activity than homicides committed without the use of a firearm. As for criminals, they use guns after doing a realistic cost/benefit calculation that it is to their advantage to do so. Gangs, particularly drug gangs, require guns to protect their multi-million-dollar operations and prey on rival gangs.

Trudeau's Bill C-22 will remove a number of mandatory sentences for offences including robbery with a firearm and extortion with a firearm. This reduces the legal hazard for criminals, making it more likely they will use firearms. This is sold as anti-racist because some minority communities have higher crime rates. Of course, the pattern of crime is mostly local, with community members mostly preying on their own local community. Anti-racist, in this context, means that minority communities with higher crime rates will have their violent local criminals back sooner.

Still, the narrative that the almighty state, through a massive bureaucracy and a maze of micromanaging laws, can know where every gun is and get guns – especially the guns of violent, criminal gangs – off the streets continues. One strategy to deny criminals getting illegal guns are the much-talked-about initiatives to stop smuggling. One can understand that border control is important, it establishes that we actually are a nation, not just a welcome mat. Unfortunately, crime control through smuggling control is a farce. Canada has a 5,000-mile border with the US, almost all of it completely unguarded. The idea that we can seal this border against something as small and easily concealed as a gun is a lunatic fantasy. To think organized street gangs can't observe our border defenses and plan avoidance is also a flight of fancy.

CONTROLLING THE LAW-ABIDING

The government likes to posture over their amazing ability to control firearms in Canada (legal firearms) to such an extent that they know the whereabouts



Licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 (1997 to 2010), half the overall national rate of 1.85 per 100,000.

of every gun in Canada (legal guns). A recent example was the tightening of authorization to transport regulations that, among other things, now requires special, individual permission for a licensed owner with a registered gun to take it to a gunsmith. Boy! That will have the violent criminal gangs in Canada quaking in their boots – take that, criminals!

Behind the public relations posturing of crime fighting by “knowing every gun and where it is” (legal guns), we find the magnificent multi-billion-dollar gun control scheme:

- Only applies to the law-abiding, completely ignoring those refused licenses and criminals;

- Has no agreed definition of a crime gun;

- Does not know how many guns were seized, stolen or recovered in criminal incidents;

- Has no standard definition of shooting or discharging a firearm;

- Has no national records on the origins of crime guns.

Presumably, this incompetence is a brilliant display of their awesome control over each and every gun (legal guns) and it only took 26 years and a few billion dollars after the Firearms Act was passed to figure out there might be an information problem.

As to the law-abiding, Statistics Canada data shows that licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 (1997 to 2010), half the overall national homicide rate of 1.85 per 100,000. However, in 2012, the government's heroic crackdown on these scoundrels generated 12,320 administrative firearms violations (not including Quebec). In 1998, the Liberals confiscated over half of the legal firearms in Canada, grandfathered

to eventual confiscation, and didn't pay owners anything.

SUMMARY

One might imagine all this was grounds for re-thinking. Perhaps, a system that went after actual criminal misuse of firearms instead of paperwork crimes that only exist because of the paperwork. Trudeau's latest crusade is against “assault weapons” that actually aren't, since real assault weapons are capable of automatic fire and have been banned in Canada since the 1970s. They are almost never used in crime.

However, there is a counter argument against changing the system. In 1988, the Violence Policy Center in the US determined that public confusion between semi and full auto was something that could be exploited. There is also the Hill & Knowlton poll that found Canadian's ignorance about our gun laws could be exploited using anti-gun sentiments to attract centre-left voters. Such a policy might, if the press jumped on the bandwagon, be a political success.

It would also divert badly needed resources into a crime-fighting dead end that would seriously compromise public safety. Canadians can judge for themselves which course the Liberals are taking. 🗡️

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Canadian Soldiers Issued Mosins During An Obscure War

The First World War found Europe in conflict from the Western Front to the Middle East. The event was a clash of empires. The Russian Empire and the British Empire were locked in a struggle with Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire supported by the Ottoman Empire. The politics of this era are at best confusing and extremely complex, with alliances that appear at first glance to make no sense at all.

These alliances were created by royal connections and the desire for expansion, plus the need to protect the integrity of the empire. These forces turned the world into a conflagration that was immense, costing the lives of 40 million civilian and military personnel. The war raged on for four gruesome years, with the destruction of whole countries and displacement of entire populations the result.

These empires used the purported threat of insurrection to their advantage. One example is the Turkish genocide of one million Armenians. The British Empire used their authority to assert their rule in the Middle East. The Russian Empire employed a similar strategy to subjugate middle Europeans and the Finnish. The Austro-Hungarian Empire, in concert with the Germans, wanted to consolidate their power in the low countries and middle Europe.

MEANWHILE IN RUSSIA

The Russian Empire was disintegrating as the Bolsheviks advanced their cause, and in February 1917 Tsar Nicholas II abdicated. The entire family was re-located to Ekaterinburg, Russia. The Russian Army mutinied; a provisional government was formed, but Russia was in chaos. The Bolsheviks used this situation to form militias, which then became the Red Army. In October of 1917, the



M1891 Mosin-Nagant pictured with a Canadian mounted forces saddle and bandolier, plus 7.62x54R ammunition.

Bolsheviks mounted an insurrection by workers and soldiers, which successfully overturned the provisional government.

Once the provisional government fell, civil war erupted. The Bolshevik's Red Guard was confronted by the White Counterrevolutionaries, who established their capitol in Omsk. The Reds relocated their capitol to Moscow, and the civil war raged on. By 1918, the Russian Empire was in collapse, the Ottoman Empire was in decline, the Austro-Hungarian Empire supporting the Germans was losing the war and the world was in total disarray.

INCIDENT IN SIBERIA

In May of 1918, an incident on the Trans Siberian Railway changed the course of the war in Siberia. The Czech Legion, who had been fighting in support of the White Russian 3rd Army against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, were under threat of being disarmed by the Bolsheviks who had seized power. A Hungarian prisoner of war killed a Czech soldier, so members of the Czech regiment hung the man on the

spot. The local Bolsheviks arrested the identified Czechs and jailed them. Leon Trotsky ordered all the armed Czechs to be shot. However, members of the Czech regiment overpowered the Bolsheviks, secured their arms and ammunition, as well as the trains, then released all the Czech soldiers.

The Red Army chose not to confront the disciplined and tough Czech Legion. The 70,000 members of the Czech Legion then seized control of the Trans Siberian Railway to continue their evacuation to Vladivostok. The Czechs seized 60 trains and established control of all the cities and towns enroute. By June of 1918, 1,500 members of the Czech Legion reached Vladivostok and secured the city in 24 hours. And so, the Czech Legion controlled the Trans Siberian Railway from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

CANADIANS ENTER SIBERIA

The British Empire and the US feared the Bolsheviks and the Revolution. The White Russian government asked for allied support to overthrow the Bolsheviks. The Allies agreed to intervene in northern Russia, as there

was a concern the Germans would be able to move military supplies and resources over the Trans Siberian Railway to change the course of the war. The Allies feared and mistrusted the Bolsheviks, as they might collude with the Germans. The Western Allies decided to intervene and included Canada. Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden agreed that Canada should be involved, as he wanted to add to Canada's prestige, and thus give it more control over its own foreign policy.

The Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force (CSEF) was authorized by the Privy Council in early August 1918 under General James H. Elmsley's command. The advance party of Canadian troops, composed of 4,192 soldiers, arrived in Vladivostok in October of 1918. The Czechs were still holding Vladivostok and welcomed the Western Forces. The Western Allies were impressed with the Czech Legion and viewed it as an opportunity to reopen the Eastern Front to again engage Germany. The US, Japan and Great Britain agreed.

The Royal North-West Mounted Police formed B Squadron under RNWMP Superintendent George Worsley, who was then commissioned as a major in the CSEF. The force consisted of mostly new recruits, farmers, cowboys and ranchers from western Canada and the United States. The initial force listed six officers and 184 other ranks. Their firearms were Lee Enfield SMLE rifles and one Hotchkiss machine gun for every 40 men. The advance party left Victoria, BC, Oct. 11, 1918, on the Canadian Pacific liner, the Empress of Japan. The main force left Vancouver Nov. 17, 1918, on the ocean liner Monteaagle.

CANADIANS GET THE MOSIN-NAGANT

Due to supply issues, the Canadian contingent and B Squadron, plus some portions of the US Navy, were issued with M1891 Mosin-Nagant rifles manufactured by Westinghouse and Remington. The Imperial Russian government had defaulted on the payment of these rifles and the Russian armouries had a large quantity of them. The Canadians were using the mounted pattern bandoliers, which accepted the Mosin stripper clips and 7.62 x 54R rounds perfectly. Of the main force of the CSEF, some units were deployed to the ports of Murmansk and Archangel.

RIGHT: Members of the CSEF and their M1891 Mosins.



Centre, a RNWMP B Squadron member riding a Siberian pony, accompanied by two other mounted forces troopers.



The main force of the Canadians was initially housed in Vladivostok, while B Squadron of the RNWMP began policing duties and security details in Vladivostok and the nearby hills. B Squadron then began to move their equipment and material to the Gornestai barracks. On Feb. 21, 1919, B Squadron moved across the peninsula to the Second River barracks. The Canadian's CSEF and B Squadron, along with the British, were housed at Second River. The troopers of B Squadron were reportedly impressed with the barracks and the horse barn, as they were warm, dry and well heated.

The RNWMP continued their training and security patrols, plus policing with other British, French, Czech and Japanese units. The Canadian Army duties included guarding prisoners, securing the movement of materials and guarding supply trains. The only fighting in the area turned out to be skirmishes which engaged the Japanese forces. The Canadians consisted of the 259th Battalion Canadian Rifles, commanded by Lt.-Col. A.E. Swift; the 260th Battalion PPCLI A Company, commanded by Major D.S. Bauld; plus some of the 16th Canadian Infantry supported by an Engineer Field Company, a machine gun and artillery company.

The 259th were involved with supply details for equipment coming into Vladivostok, this being arms and ammunition that were being supplied by the Allies. They were also involved in the supervision of prisoners. Members of the CSEF were sent to Omsk to serve as administrative staff for the British Army supporting the White Russian government of Admiral Alexander Kolchak. The 259th left Vladivostok in January 1919 and served with the 16th Infantry Brigade in eastern Russia until May 19, 1919.

On March 12, 1919, orders were received for the Canadian Forces to leave Siberia. B Squadron left Russia on June 5, 1919, on the SS Monteaagle. Their voyage was 17 days. Much of the main force of the CSEF were deployed to other parts of Europe.

All members of B Squadron RNWMP qualified to receive the British War Medal 1914-1920.

A quote from Scarlet and Gold, a publication of the RCMP Veteran's Association, "Although B Squadron members did not participate in any military battles in Russia, members of the squadron distinguished themselves and displayed a high standard, which contributed to the reputation of the force."

The Siberian adventure ended with few Canadian casualties, but with another story added to our Firearms Heritage.

SOURCES

Wikipedia, RCMP Scarlet and Gold Veterans Assoc. RCMP Historical Collections Unit, The Canadian Encyclopedia.

GIFTS FOR GUNNIES

Gift suggestions for your Santa

BY AL VOTH





Christmas isn't far away now, and if you haven't given any thought as to what you should ask Santa for, it's time to do an inventory check in the gun room and see what's missing. The following are a few suggestions to help your thought processes. I've been using all these products with great success and expect they will provide excellent service and value to other gun owners as well.

|| CHAMPION WHEELYBIRD 2.0

I spent the summer working with a new clay launcher from Champion, called the WheelyBird 2.0, and it left me wondering why I hadn't upgraded to something like this long ago. This

machine retails in Canada for \$600, although I have seen it on sale as low as \$400. With a capacity of 50 clays, the ability to launch them at least 60 yards and a recycle time of 1.75 seconds, this machine is so much fun it's cost me some serious money in ammunition and targets.

I grabbed a small lawn tractor battery at Costco to power it (\$40), and with the remote control and it's time delay feature, it's possible to walk 360-degrees around this machine and engage not only straightaways, but crossing and incoming targets too. It's obvious this machine can be the ticket to a big improvement in anyone's wingshooting skills. Winter isn't exactly clay target >

season in much of the country, but this machine is so much fun you'll brave the cold frequently just to use it. www.championtarget.com

2 | WALKER'S FIREMAX HEARING PROTECTION

The reason electronic muffs are so popular is because they don't lock the shooter into a world of relative silence the way passive muffs do. Their ability to transmit non-dangerous sounds provides the wearer with a welcome level of communication. But what if that communication ability were extended to the other side of the range, or even the adjoining field where your buddy is hunting?

That's the idea behind Walker's FireMax muffs, which are available with a plug-in module which converts them into FRS-based walkie talkies. They feature a microphone which extends slightly to the front, an adjustable antennae, main channel, sub-channel and priority channel settings, complete volume control and a subdued LED screen which displays settings. There's a push-to-talk button mounted on the microphone extension, but also a voice-activated option which makes communication hands-free. And no need to buy batteries because the power source is a large, rechargeable lithium battery. I've been using mine for several months with excellent success. Price is about \$270 CAD, with the radio module another \$85.

www.walkersgameear.com

3 | SPARTAN BIPODS

A good bipod is worth its weight in gold when a rifle shooter needs to make a difficult shot and requires extra support. Unfortunately, after many hours of walking or climbing, most bipods feel as heavy as that "gold" standard. However, if you're looking for a high-quality, lightweight bipod, the products made by Spartan may fill your needs as well as they do mine. A British company, Spartan manufactures bipods, tripods and most of the accessories needed to attach rifles to these support systems. Their products feature carbon fibre, aerospace aluminum, and tungsten carbide materials, all crafted into high-quality products. So far, I've only worked with their bipod systems, and have been impressed by the quality and the ingenious design.

In the field, the Spartan bipod is normally carried or stored as a separate



2



3

piece, and when needed is snapped onto the rifle using a patented magnetic attachment system. Attaching and detaching are both incredibly quick, while the bipod holds securely to the rifle. Their bipods will allow the rifle to cant and traverse, with a locking system available to hold them one position or to adjust

the tension to just the right amount. Additionally, the design is modular, offering fixed or adjustable-length legs and various feet options. Bipods come in numerous designs with pricing starting at \$250 CAD. No, they aren't cheap, but they are high quality. www.javelinbipod.com



4 | LEGACY SPORTS MAGAZINE CONVERSION KIT

If you own a Remington 700 or a Howa 1500 that came from the factory without a detachable magazine, it's possible, for a reasonable price, to convert these rifles to accept magazines. While there's no shortage of conversion units built for these rifles, most are more weight than I want to hang on a lightweight rifle. That was my issue last year, when I ended up trying the Legacy Sports Magazine conversion kit.

This system is made from a polymer which is lightweight, but strong enough to handle the rigors of field use. It replaces the factory hinged floorplate system with little or no fitting required. I put mine on a custom 700 and used it all winter for coyotes without the slightest problem. It increased magazine capacity to five-plus-one, and I didn't have to fiddle with a handful of loose ammunition when loading or unloading as I moved from one location to another. Feeding has always been stone cold reliable, with everything working just the way it should. No, they aren't as tough as the steel or aluminum systems, but they sure are light, work reliably and are relatively inexpensive. These kits are available in a range of calibres, with

prices around \$125 CAD, and in stock at many Canadian dealers.
www.legacysports.com

5 | GALCO GUN LEATHER

When trying to get to know someone, I'll often ask them what their favourite smell is. You'd be surprised at some of the answers! When I'm asked, my reply is always, "Leather." So, it's no secret I'm partial to companies who use it, like Galco Holsters. Any excuse to use leather is a good one and Galco has come up with some great gift ideas, like the EDC Valet. This is simply a large tray made of premium Latigo dark Havana leather, that sits on your dresser or nightstand and acts as a receptacle for the nightly pocket dump we all do. Yes, I know, you can put your pocket litter into an old margarine container too, but dropping it into a beautiful leather bin made by a holster company is much more satisfying.

I've also been using Galco's eyeglass case to carry and protect my sunglasses this past summer. These are also made from a beautiful dark leather and have a soft inner lining. The case fits on belts up to 1.75 inches wide, doing it with snap-equipped straps so you don't have to

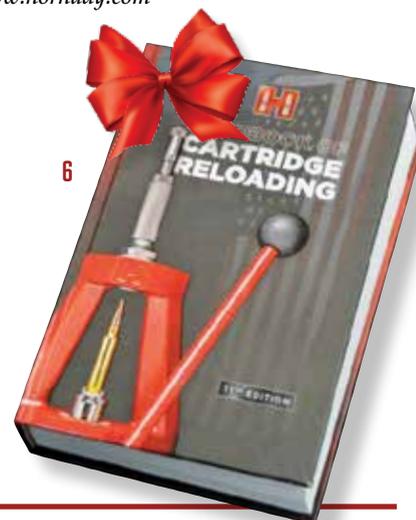
remove the belt. The case won't fit the wrap-around type of glasses which are so much thicker when folded up, but they work great with the flatter, aviator style eyewear. Unfortunately, I don't know of any Canadian dealers handling Galco products, so this may have to be an online purchase. The Galco website regularly runs 20 per cent off promotions, which helps take the sting out of the prices, which are \$60 US for the tray and \$98 US for the eyeglass case.
www.galcoGUNLEATHER.COM

6 | HORNADY RELOADING HANDBOOK – 11TH EDITION

Call me old school, but when I need to look up reloading data, I always start with a book, not the Internet. And the first book I invariably refer to is the latest version of the Hornady manual I have available, which is why it's big news to me when they release a new edition. As you'd expect, this latest 11th edition, with a 1,012 page count is the biggest ever. It contains data for several new chamberings, including the 6mm ARC, 6.5 PRC, 224 Valkyrie, 350 Legend and 28 Nosler. All the Hornady bullets which have made an appearance since the previous edition are also included, as are newer powders like StaBall 6.5.

While the Internet is my second stop for reloading data, for those who go there first, Hornady offers the book as an app. Called the Hornady Reloading App, it's available for a yearly subscription of \$19.99 US and it comes with the bonus of getting all new data as it's created, well before it appears in the 12th edition. The option to purchase it as an e-book is also there, with details on the Hornady website. The hardcover book is available at most Canadian gun shops for a reasonable \$65 CAD.

www.hornady.com





FRANCHI'S FIRST RIFLE

Reviewing the Franchi Momentum
BY JEFF HELSDON



According to the manufacturer, the Franchi Momentum rifle is the first rifle where ergonomics, feel and fit were the primary considerations in the design process. While that sounds a bit like marketing hype, there's no question the result is a modern-looking rifle with good fit and excellent accuracy.

"The new Franchi Momentum bolt-action rifle is designed to be an extension of the body, regardless of shooting position," the gun's website claims. "The stock design was based on creating comfort for the shooter in the five most commonly used shooting positions."

Franchi is a well-known Italian manufacturer with a reputation for quality shotguns, characterized by light weight, quick handling and reasonable prices. This gun is Franchi's first foray into the rifle market.

FEATURES

The Momentum's initial launch a few years ago was for a synthetic-stocked gun with a blued barrel in six popular calibres. The gun also came with an

impressive seven-year warranty and one-inch group guarantee when Sako TRG ammunition is used. The information from the company's website now says four calibres are available: 6.5 Creedmoor, 308 Winchester, 300 Winchester Magnum and 350 Legend. A package is also available with a 3-9X Burris scope. Either a hinged floor-plate or magazine option is offered. Flat earth and dark hunter grey are the stock colours available.

Franchi upped the ante two years ago with the Momentum Elite. The most obvious new features are the camouflage stock and Cerakote-treated barrel. There is also a predator model in the Elite line, with a raised cheek piece and heavy fluted barrel. It comes with two magazines – a standard three-shot and extended eight-shot.

Another difference between the Momentum and Momentum Elite is a detachable box magazine as standard on the Elite. Some Momentum models only have a hinged floor plate. The Elite also comes in some different calibres, including 6.5 PRC, 224 Valkyrie, >

22-250 Remington and 350 Legend.

In all versions, the barrel is free floating and varies between 22 and 24 inches in length, dependent on the calibre. There is a removable muzzle brake on the Elite, which is an option on the standard model.

Initially, I thought this gun would be based on a Tikka, but with a different stock. I was wrong. "It's a completely different rifle in every respect, from the ejector to the bolt to the magazine," said Shane O'Connell of Stoeger Canada. "It doesn't share any parts."

Whereas the Tikka has a two-lug bolt, the Franchi is a three-lug design, fluted and fatter. Bolt removal is accomplished by depressing a lever on the left side of the receiver. This is the same on both the Tikka and the Franchi. The magazine looks similar, but removal on the Franchi is via a lever on the front inside of the trigger guard, whereas the Tikka magazine is removed by squeezing a lever in front of the magazine.

The recoil pad is the same TSA pad used in the company's shotguns. Claims are it reduces recoil by 50 per cent. Although the 6.5 Creedmoor I tested is a relatively light recoiling load, I felt no adverse effects from the recoil when shooting the gun.

TESTING

My test rifle was a Momentum Elite with a green stock and bronze Cerakote barrel in 6.5 Creedmoor. And since this gun is about ergonomics, the first thing I did was check the balance. With the muzzle brake on, balance shifted noticeably to the front. With the muzzle brake removed, balance moved close to where the receiver joins the barrel, where it should be for a rifle.

The differences in the stock are subtle and the spots where the hands land are checkered. At the range, I found my hand naturally went to the curves in the stock. Franchi engineers designed the stock not only so the shooter can grip the gun tighter, but also exert rearward pressure as needed. The term "fit like a glove" did come to mind when I shot the gun.

The bolt has a 60-degree throw, which made for quick reloading. The bolt handle, which sports a modern look, is functional and sleek, although, in my opinion, not as attractive as that on a Remington 700.

The magazine release on the inside



Franchi Momentum is a great option for those looking for a reasonably priced hunting rifle.

of the trigger guard functioned well, with the magazine dropping easily after it was depressed. During a heat-of-the-moment hunting situation when a quick magazine change is necessary, this could work well once a person is used to it, but it could be a challenge with a gloved hand.

The safety is two-position and located to the right of the bolt with white and red dots indicating the safety's status. I found the click to move it off safe a little loud, but then the gun was new. The bolt can still be operated when in the safe position.

I have often heard instructors tell new shooters to squeeze the trig-

ger gently and it should be almost a surprise when the gun fires. I noted this occurred often when firing the Momentum. There was no creep, and the release was smooth. My trigger pull scale showed release was at three pounds. Trigger pull weight is adjustable on the Momentum, but it requires removing two screws from the trigger guard. The adjustment screw is then on the front of the trigger.

My only hunting opportunity with the Momentum was a short outing for coyotes late in the season. It didn't prove successful, but I did note the gun's balance and handling made it a pleasure to have in the field.



TOP LEFT: The magazine release lever is inside the trigger guard, usually a spot used for the release of floor plates. This gun is also available with a floor plate instead of a removable magazine.



LEFT: The stock's sculpted lines and checkering work help support the rifle.



BOTTOM LEFT: The single-stage trigger is adjustable for pull weight from two to four pounds.



ABOVE: The Franchi Momentum liked Federal Premium's Sierra MatchKing 140-grain loads, producing this incredible group.

these bullets, but I may have needed some fine-tuning to make that work. I came to a preliminary conclusion that generally this gun liked 136 to 143-grain bullets.

THE OPTIC

The gun was outfitted with a Burris Fullfield IV 4-16X50 scope, which certainly did its job in delivering all the rifle's accuracy. I was impressed with the modern look of the diagonal fluting on the zoom ring. A similar pattern is used on the turret caps and parallax adjustment knob.

After sighting in at 100 yards using the intersection of the crosshairs, I shot at 200, using the hash mark indicating this distance. It was dead on for elevation. Using this reticle was easy on a bench rest, but I don't know if the numbers would be hard to see in a hunting situation. Unfortunately, I couldn't shoot any further than 200, as that is the longest rifle range I have available. The scope also has horizontal hash marks for wind drift compensation.

With a price range of \$700 for the base model rifle, and \$1,000 for the Elite, the Momentum adds a lower price range to the parent Beretta group's rifle line-up. It lives up to the company name. 🍀

ACCURACY

It's hard to be critical of the accuracy of a rifle when I shot my new personal best with it. Using Federal Gold Medal Sierra MatchKing 140-grain, I ended up with a group measuring 0.05 inches for three shots when shot off a Lead Sled.

The gun comes with a one-inch guarantee when using Sako's TRG. I found I could better that, with my tightest group with TRG 136-grain bullets coming in at 0.518 inches. TRG is Sako's premium target product. One neat feature is Franchi includes a printout of the group shot at the factory with TRG. It measured 0.99

inches.

Sako's Gamehead, which is a middle-of-the-line product, did better with a three-shot group of 0.340 inches with 140-grain bullets.

Some of my other experimentation was limited to a single three-shot group due to the present ammunition shortage. Results were: Federal Non-Typical Whitetail 140-grain at 0.759 and Hornady American Whitetail 129-grain at just over an inch.

I shot a few groups with my reloads using Hornady ELD-X 143 grains and Hodgdon H4350 powder. The best of these was 0.680 inches. Typically, I can produce a half-inch or better with



— MY COLT 1991

It's not a budget pistol
BY TYSON COLTER SOMMERVILLE

It's probably not shocking that I come from a family of story tellers. A story my mother likes to tell is that when I was born, my dad wanted to name me Colt, after the firearm company. She declined the idea and met him halfway, making my middle name Colter. To be honest, Tyson is a perfectly fine name, but I think I would have preferred Colt. I get called Tyler far more often than I'd like.

Anyway, some time back, this story got me thinking, it was strange that I do not have a Colt in my collection. I began searching, and more importantly, saving, for a remedy to this issue. As coincidence would have it, a friend of mine, who is notorious for buying, selling and swapping firearms at a high pace, came into possession of a Colt 1991 in 45 ACP. To my

understanding, he received it as part of a very complex trade deal involving a rifle and a few scopes. For those familiar with the term, it's good ol' fashioned horse trading.

Being the man that he is, he owned it for a few months and decided to toss it on the market. He was kind enough to give me first offer to buy. Initially, I was somewhat disinterested. I had heard that the 1991 was a budget line of Colt 1911s from the 1990s and lacked the usual finishing touches and final prep. Also, to my shame, my pride took issue with a 1911 that wasn't a 1911, if that makes sense. Then he told me the "friend price" and I just had to try it. How bad could a budget Colt be?

When I went to his house to pick it up, it was immediately apparent this

was a smooth gun, with that kind of slick that only time could do. It also had parkerization on it that I initially mistook for dull blueing. Turns out, parkerized firearms aren't supposed to look like they've been accosted with barbeque paint. This 1991 had also been modified by a previous owner. The obvious mods are wood Colt grips, hammer, grip safety and sights. The hammer and grip safety had been swapped from the original GI style to the more modern beaver-tail type and a commander style hammer. They are simple modifications that make the gun, in my opinion, a touch more shootable. It also has a strange dovetail cut just in front of the rear sight which I believe is for a racking handle.

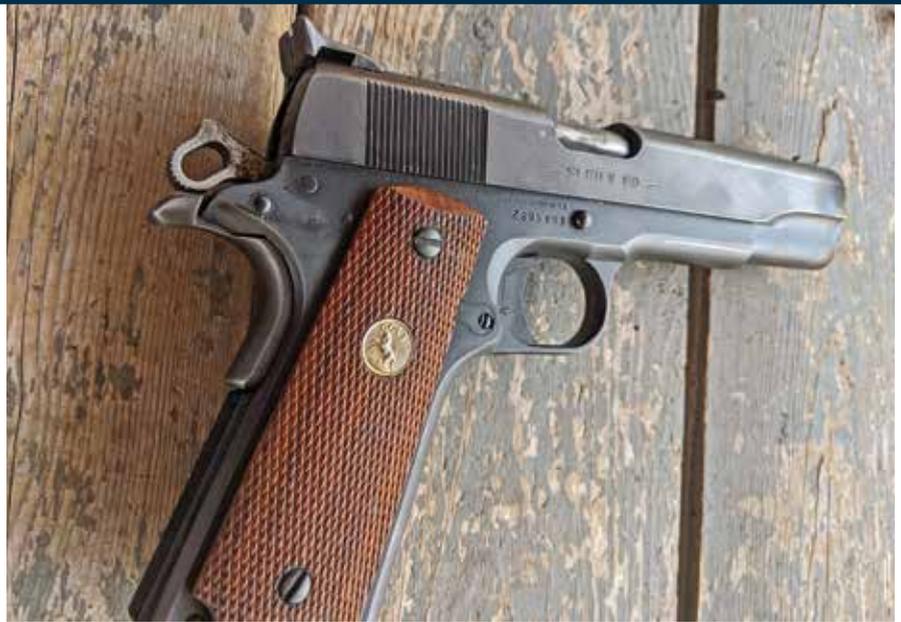
The sights have also been replaced

with a short front sight and a Millet rear. Millet no longer makes sights, and haven't for a long time, so thank you to Reddit for letting me know. The "new" sights sit lower on the slide than most 1911 sights and the Millet sits further back, giving a touch more sight radius. The only issue I have found is with 230 and 180-grain bullets, which shoot three to four inches high at 10 yards. This has resulted in my compensating by having a rather strange sight picture. I run the top of the front sight about halfway down the window on the rear sight, almost like you would when using a ghost ring or peep sight. It sounds insane, but it's pretty intuitive once you get used to it. I almost wonder if it was meant to be shot that way with these sights, instead of the more likely scenario that I just haven't found the right ammunition for it. I could change the front sight out for a taller one, but I've been using it for 3-gun all season as is and it's worked great, giving me a recent first place finish in PCC division.

The reason I know these changes were made, and that the 1991 wasn't actually a budget gun was I asked Colt. It's deceptively simple, most people don't realize you can just e-mail companies with questions and usually they will help you. Colt is especially good for this, and offer a service through their archives where, for a fee, they can search your specific serial number and give you all the information they have on it. Usually, it's just when it was made and what store it was shipped to, but there's some interesting stories of custom work or law enforcement purchases. I didn't use this service myself because I'm sure this gun just went to a retail shop where someone bought it.

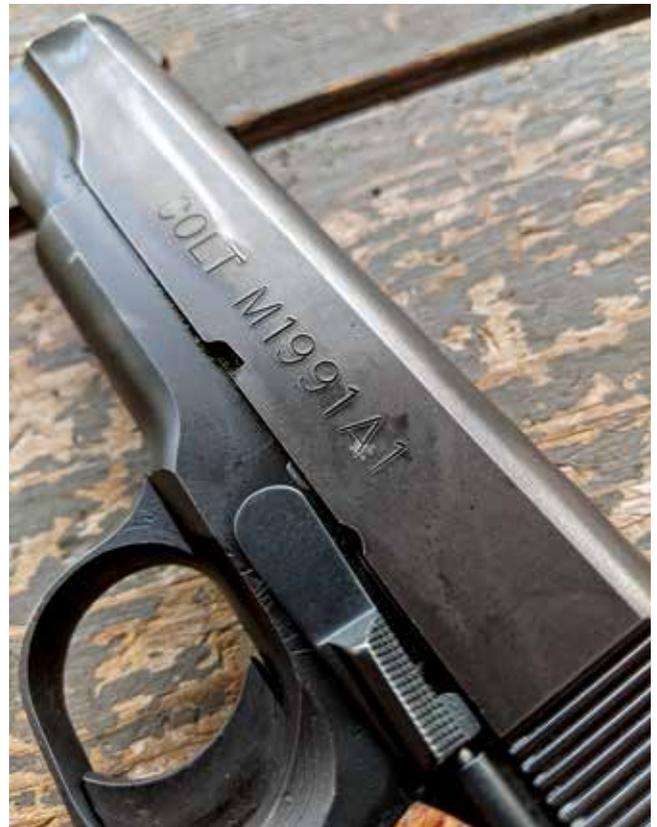
I was able to search the serial number to find it was made in 1991, the first year of production. I asked them for old advertisements and any info they had on the 1991 model, and they were kind enough to help me out. It turns out, the 1991 was not a budget gun but rather an anniversary or commemorative model. They were made to be as close to the original Second World War GI models as possible, including being serialized starting where the GI issued ones left off.

I think where the budget myth comes from is the list price. Colt archives also sent me an MSRP list from



ABOVE: The hammer, grip safety and sights have all been replaced.

RIGHT: Yes, it's a 1911, but it's also an M1991A1.



1993, which kind of made me sad, I just had to take some deep breaths and remind myself of inflation. The MSRP of the 1991 was just shy of \$500 USD, which did place it as one of the less expensive models offered. For context, a 1911 Government model was around \$700 USD and a Python was just over \$900 USD. So, it was an inexpensive model, but I just can't seem to find any corners they cut that would make it a budget model outside

of parkerizing instead of blueing or using stainless steel, but that was done for the purpose of historical accuracy not accounting.

My 1991 shoots very well – better than I can, that's for sure. I suspect there has been trigger work done, as the trigger breaks just shy of three pounds. As for accuracy, when I am having a good day, it's not unusual to have holes touching at 10 yards, but me being me, I like to throw in a flier

just for fun.

As for reliability, there was a learning curve for me with the 1911 platform regarding maintenance. It turns out, a 1911 will run dirty, but it won't run dry. Before owning this gun, I did not know that gun grease was a thing, I had gotten this far in life using just gun oil. The very first time I shot it, I had some fail-to-feeds and assumed the recoil spring was worn. A friend explained to me where to grease (basically anywhere the slide and frame meet). I put a few dabs of grease on and took it to a match only to be embarrassed by failures to feed in front of an audience. My friend took my gun and GREASED it for me. Turns out, I was being too frugal with the grease. When he was done greasing, it looked like an SKS in cosmoline, but it ran. Since then, I haven't had a hiccup from it; I just keep it so well greased my forearms get splattered when I shoot it. So, reliability is great if you don't love your shirt. Some 1911s can be temperamental about magazines, but I have had no such issues. I have tried the higher-end Wilson combats and the cheaper pro-mag and KCI

versions, all with no trouble.

So, let's call this a cautionary tale. Two lessons to be learned: Don't dismiss a budget gun until you've found out for sure it's actually a budget gun; and don't name your kid Tyson, just skip to the end and name him Tyler, that's what everyone will call him anyway. 🍷

BELOW: A page from Colt's 1992 catalog introduces the M1991A1 to the public.



NOTICE OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE OF DIRECTORS – *Fall 2021*

The NFA is pleased to announce that the 2021 fall election for directors is now completed. We would like to congratulate the new board of directors who shall take office immediately. The elected by acclamation are:

British Columbia - Yukon

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

Alberta – NWT & International

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

Saskatchewan

Vacant at this time.

Manitoba – Nunavut

Vacant at this time.

Ontario

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

Quebec

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

Atlantic Provinces

Donald Feltham serving a 2 year term
Robert Bracken serving a 1 year term

Welcome to the NFA team!



THE TIGER PISTOL

Collecting Lancasters

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER • PHOTOS BY JOHN HIPWELL



Two nickel-finished Lancaster pistols. The top is a very early model in 380 CF. The bottom is a rare, fully engraved two-barrel in 476 CF.

“As a little school kid, my twin sister was allowed to take her new doll to school after her birthday, but I wasn’t allowed to take my new cap pistol. It was then I realized guns were something special,” said John Hipwell.

Hipwell grew up in England, working for his father on their farm. He started a firearms business there as a part-time venture, and in 1982 he emigrated to Canada. He continued to farm in Canada, but he was dismayed with the annual decline in the financial balance sheet, despite working hard at their pig operation. Between astronomical interest rates and skyrocketing input costs, he decided to do the only other thing he knew – firearms. This part-time venture, intended to supplement his farming income, eventually grew into Wolverine Supplies, now employing 22 to 24 full-time workers.

For some reason, people love to collect things, from fine China teacups to old English coins, Harley David-

sons, to first-printing books. Hipwell collects Lancaster pistols in two and four-barrel break-action varieties. These 125-year-old (and older!) guns were the first choice of British officers in the late 1800s, particularly those deployed in various parts of the world where a powerful and reliable sidearm was required, say, to stop a charging tiger or cape buffalo. Lancaster pistols were chambered in various black powder cartridges, including the 380 CF, 476 CF, and 577 CF. Hipwell said, “The allure of fancy and expensive rifles has completely disappeared for me, but the Lancaster holds appeal for its peculiar design, rarity and value.”

COLLECTING LANCASTERS

The Lancaster pistol derives its name from the British maker of these guns, Charles Lancaster. There were less than 1,000 individual guns manufactured, and no two are the same. These are uniquely designed in both large and small calibre variations. Large-

frame guns were designed to handle big-beast calibres like the .577 black powder. Those are “stopping rounds” – think enraged tigers and drugged-up assassins bent on killing you. You might remember seeing one in the movie *The Ghost and the Darkness*. And then there was the smaller version which could be discreetly slipped into a gentleman’s pocket for an evening out where one might want protection.

My 20th edition of *The Standard Catalog of Firearms* lists the value of a four-barrel pistol at \$1,500 to \$8,000 US, depending on condition, and the two-barrelled version at \$1,000 to \$6,000. No doubt prices have risen since this was published 10 years ago.

It says this about one specific Lancaster: “A unique pistol for several reasons. It is chambered in the 476 Rimfire cartridge and has four 6.25-inch barrels. The bore has a slightly twisted oval pattern that imparts a spin to the bullet. The barrels are hinged at the bottom and >



ABOVE: Both these pistols are Lancaster four-barreled firearms. The top in 476 CF and bottom in 380 CF.



LEFT: Battle damage.

break downward for loading. It is a double-action type lockwork with a long, difficult trigger pull. The pistol is well-made: the calibre, suitably heavy to ensure stopping power. The primary goal was military, and it was successful, seeing action in the Sudan campaigns of 1882 and 1885. These powerful weapons were also popular with big-game hunters as a backup sidearm. The finish is blued, with checkered walnut grips. It is marked 'Charles Lancaster (Patent) 151 New Bond St. London.' This model was introduced in 1881. There are smaller calibre versions of this pistol with shorter barrels. They are not as well-known as the large-calibre version, and the values would be similar as

their rarity would be balanced by the desirability of the large-bore models."

Of the two-barrelled versions, the catalog says: "Similar to the four-barreled version, with only two superposed barrels chambered in a variety of calibres from .320 to .577. It was also chambered for the 20 gauge and .410 bore shotshells. The advantage of the two-barrel pistol is that it is lighter and better balanced. The two-barrel is less common than the four-barrel version."

LANCASTERS ARE RARE

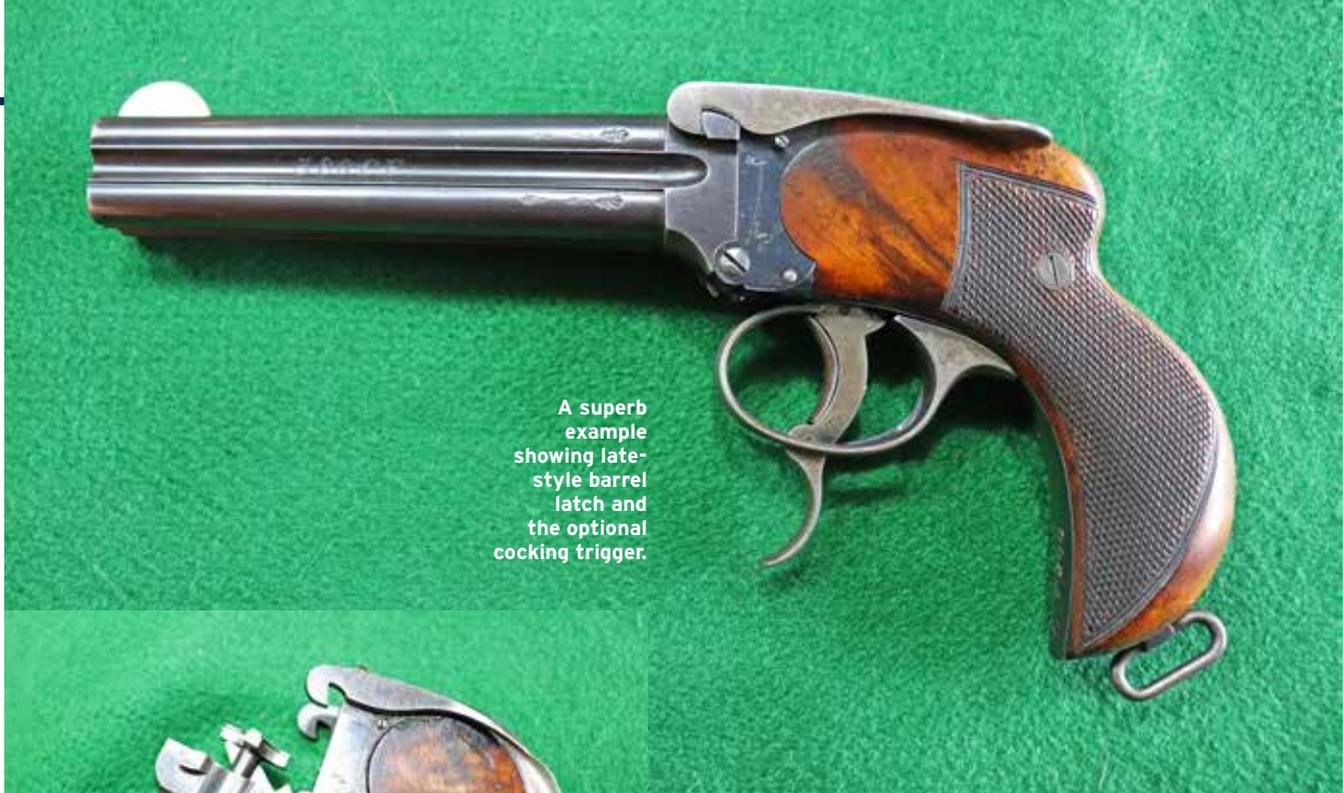
Hipwell said, "The Lancaster fills a unique niche because it was only manufactured for about 15 years. Less than 1,000 were produced, and

each one was handmade. In my collection here of 24 pieces, I don't imagine there's a single pair of grips that would interchange. Every time I look at them, I discover something new. I discovered one the other day that the grip ran the length of the barrel. I compared it to the rest of them on display, and I realized that's the only one like it.

"There is no definitive reference on them – not like Enfield rifles, where there are several outstanding publications, albeit expensive, but there is material, and other people have done the research. There is no reference book on the Lancaster. In fact, at one time, I thought I might be the person that writes it. I did create a spreadsheet of every Lancaster I could locate on an old auction listing on the Internet. At last count, I've got over 130 on this spreadsheet. And that's when I started to realize the individual qualities of each gun."

LANCASTER FEATURES

"Basically, you can split Lancasters up into either four-barrel or two-barrel variations," said Hipwell. "They're all break-open action, and they all have Lancaster overbore rifling. This was a very good rifling for the black



A superb example showing late-style barrel latch and the optional cocking trigger.



LEFT: The late style double-barrel catch and spring-loaded ejector.

ADVICE FOR COLLECTORS

Hipwell said, "There was a time in England when one day we couldn't pay the bills, and when I walked into the gun room, I realized I had a fantastic collection. But why should I have a lovely collection, but we can't pay the bills. I realized one should only spend your surplus income on the collection. You can't keep everything; you must temper it somewhat. Because I was in a position of running the gun business, I was fortunate to get all kinds of interesting firearms come through my hands. I could play with some for a few days, some I would take for months, maybe years, but eventually, they would be rolled over into something else."

Hipwell's advice to collectors getting started is, "Buy the best you can afford. If the piece is poor quality but a unique example, it's probably worth grabbing. Constantly upgrade. If you find a better example, and you can unload your first one, go on from that." He also recommends doing your homework, which is comparably easy today with the Internet.

Teacups or Lancasters. There's a certain pride and pleasure resulting from having and keeping a collection. Hipwell has enjoyed decades of learning, observing, pursuing, evaluating, assessing, purchasing and trading Lancasters. If you're looking to acquire a 100-year-old (or older) multi-barreled collectible handgun, Hipwell is your guy 🍷

powder era because it's easy to clean, with no sharp corners on the rifling, so it didn't foul up. It also allowed the optional use of shot. I have seen some .577 paper cartridges loaded with shot.

"They manufactured a large frame, a small frame holster pistol and a small-frame pocket pistol in both four and two barrels. Not all calibres were available in normal frame size. Obviously, the big .577 was typically a large frame two-barrel that was the top of the line, and then you got right down to the smaller pocket pistol size, which came in both two-barrel and four-barrel."

It is worth remembering that back when these pistols were popular, and propellant was exclusively black powder, there were occasional misfires. A multi-barreled gun means that if one cartridge didn't fire, the next time you pulled the trigger, the hammer fell on a fresh cartridge in a fresh barrel. This was a big deal considering what these guns were designed to do.

Hipwell said, "The action is unique

because it is a double-action internal striker. This gave the gun a very smooth, clean line, but a horrendous trigger pull in double-action. But these guns were primarily intended for self-defense at point-blank range. The unique thing is for an extra 10 shillings (which was a lot of money at that time), you could have a folding cocking trigger. This trigger extended below the trigger guard. You could fire the pistol conventionally and deal with the horrendous double-action pull or put your second finger on that cocking trigger. You pulled that cocking trigger back hard all the way first, and then your let off on the primary trigger was very light."

Hipwell may well have the largest single collection of Lancasters in the world. In some ways, this makes it tough as he approaches the time where he wants to liquidate some of his collection. The last thing he would want is to depress the price of the pieces because there are so few for sale now. So, if you are in the market for some unique pieces, now might be the time to reach out.



MY FIRST HANDGUN

A newbie's journey into the world of handguns

BY KEVIN WILSON



The author's Kimber Eclipse in 45 ACP with 22 LR conversion kit.

The decision was made three years ago. It was time to buy a handgun. As an outdoor writer, professional outfitter/guide and as a problem wildlife specialist, I've used long guns for recreation and work for much of my adult life. Handling and shooting them is second nature. Even still, I've always been intrigued with handguns, both for recreation and utility. With a specific goal of securing an authorization to carry (ATC) in the backcountry, the time had come.

My first step toward acquiring a handgun involved getting my restricted firearms license. After taking the restricted course and securing my license, it was time to research and learn as much as I could to make an informed decision about which handgun to buy. What I didn't anticipate was the plethora of options and the distinct pros and cons with each.

RESEARCH & DECISIONS

Attending SHOT Show, as we do most years, my wife and I spent a couple of years researching. To say that our foray into the world of handguns was thorough would be a gross understatement. We studied pistols and single- and double-action revolvers in depth. We carefully considered calibres. We shot every possible make and model we could. We looked at cost-effective options and we evaluated higher-end guns as well. For our application, we looked at recommended bear defense calibres, along with accessibility and ammunition cost. Our search was exhaustive.

As media, we have the privilege of attending Range Day at SHOT, an event at which many handgun manufacturers provide the unique opportunity to handle, shoot and speak with company representatives. It was an opportunity we couldn't pass up. >

We shot everything from a 38 Special to the venerable 357 Magnum, the ever-popular Glock 9mm, 10mm, 44 Magnum, even heavy hitters like the 454 Casull.

But our research didn't end there. We persisted in reading endless articles, watching shows, perusing YouTube videos and spoke with shooting instructors, law enforcement personnel and other firearms enthusiasts. Reliability, accuracy, affordability, access to ammunition and comfort along with shoot-ability continued to be our focus.

Finally narrowing it down, we short-listed it to a pair of options – the Ruger Redhawk chambered in 44 Magnum and the Kimber Eclipse Target II in .45 ACP. In the end though, both Heather and I agreed the 1911 was the way to go. One of the value-added features that sealed the deal was the ability to pick up a 22 LR conversion kit for that pistol. This would allow us to essentially get a two-in-one handgun, making it more cost-effective to do lots of shooting but also provide the calibre option we really wanted.

THE BUY

In my quest to purchase a first handgun, I tried various retail stores, but had difficulty finding the Kimber Eclipse. A good friend suggested trying the Ontario-based Ellwood Epps website. Ellwood Epps is a great Canadian one-stop online shop for all things firearms related. In short order, for a very reasonable price, I had our 45 ACP ordered, along with the 22 LR conversion kit. In a matter of a couple weeks, it was delivered to my doorstep. I was now a handgun owner.

ACCESSORIES & NECESSITIES

Like most firearms and shooting sports, I quickly learned there's an almost endless number of accessories one can buy. In the end though, a relatively short list of items is really needed to get going at the range.

A good holster and magazine carrier became early priorities. Following a lot more research, I learned that few companies make a Level 2 Kydex holster with a thumb break for the 1911 platform. This type of holster would be a requirement for getting my wilderness ATC. Fortunately, I discovered BC-based manufacturer Solely

Canadian (www.solelycanadian.com). They had precisely what I was looking for in both an outside-the-waistband Kydex holster, as well as a more low-profile concealment holster – so I picked up both. In speaking directly with the owner, Tim Smith, I was even able to make a couple minor custom adjustments to meet the design requirements for my ATC.

Equally important was a stiff gun belt. I looked at many, but I settled on a one-and-a-half-inch Galco double-thickness premium steerhide SB2 casual holster belt. It only takes one trip to the range to realize the value of a stiff belt.

Another important accessory I picked up was a package of snap caps so that I could practice dry firing and various handgun manipulation drills. I also invested in three eight-round Wilson Combat 47D magazines, a handgun cleaning kit and bore snakes to accommodate both my centrefire and rimfire barrels.

Ammunition took a little probing. I'm a firm believer in choosing suitable ammunition for my application

and sticking with it. It's most economical to load your own ammunition, but if buying commercially, options are limited to full metal jacket (FMJ) or jacketed hollow point (JHP) rounds. For my application, something like Winchester's 185 FMJ was much more economical for range practice. Again, though, with the 22 LR conversion kit, the cost of shooting hundreds of rounds becomes negligible with rim-fire ammunition. Ultimately, however, my goal is to carry in the backcountry and have this handgun on hand for wildlife defense. With this in mind, I settled on a 230-grain Winchester Elite Defender JHP in 45 Auto. Designed to maximize terminal ballistics, this bullet's bonded design welds the jacket to a lead core for good penetration and one-and-a-half times expansion.

As an added note, I also made copies of my firearms license and ATT, and laminated it so that I had an additional copy for storage inside my lockable handgun case. While it may be presumed, I also picked up a combination trigger lock for the handgun to ensure compliance with transport regulations.



Most initial practice was between five and 15 metres, but testing skills out to 25 is advantageous as well.

INITIAL CLEANING

With any new firearm, it's imperative to disassemble, clean and lubricate it thoroughly before shooting it. New guns have varying degrees of manufacturing gunk in the barrel and throughout the gun's working parts. My Kimber was no different. Initially very stiff and awkward to work the slide, it was obvious a good cleaning was in order. So, I picked up a Tipton compact handgun cleaning kit and went to work, learning how to properly disassemble and clean my new .45.

A new process for me, I spoke with several friends in the know and consulted a variety of reputable instructional YouTube videos. I found it easy to take the gun apart with the aid of the manufacturer's bushing wrench, clean all the gunk away with solvent and then lubricate all working parts and put it back together again. The only step I found a bit challenging – and I'd been warned about it – was reassembling the slide lock. A friend had cautioned that it can sometimes scratch the surface if you try to force it into place. Sure enough, I did inadvertently make a small scratch. With a little finessing, however, I learned that gently clipping it down into the slot, as opposed to pivoting it into place, was the way to go. All cleaned and reassembled, I was pleased to see that working the slide was now smooth and there was limited friction. Next up, learning to safely handle and shoot this new gun.

LEARNING TO SHOOT

Several instructor friends recommended using the snap caps to practice shooting drills. With the goal of practicing muzzle control, gripping, aiming and trigger pull, the idea was to become as familiar as possible with my new handgun. Repeatedly drawing the pistol from the holster, ensuring proper form, aiming and dry firing, before visiting any range, I spent a great deal of time handling my new handgun before going to the range to shoot live rounds.

Muzzle control was my immediate priority. Anyone who knows me will say I'm hyper diligent about firearm safety. In turn, the first thing I noticed was that, as I handled my new handgun, it was very easy to move that



A Level 2 holster and magazine pouch by Solely Canadian proved perfect for the author's needs.

short barrel in directions it shouldn't point. To address this risk, I again consulted my instructor friends and YouTube for tips.

While it's impossible to share all the information in this single editorial, I collated a shortlist of fundamentals that I have now integrated into my newfound shooting repertoire. The first fundamental was my stance. Instructors I considered to be most knowledgeable consistently suggested a moderately widespread leg position, my left foot slightly forward (as I am a right-handed shooter), with a slight bend at the knees, and a moder- >



ate forward centre of gravity to lean into the shot. This general, relaxed, forward lean is most comfortable and consistent for me.

Second up was my grip. I learned to grip the pistol high and snug, up under the beavertail of the tang, while avoiding trigger contact altogether by running my trigger finger above the trigger guard and parallel, but just below the slide. This firm grip helps minimize muzzle flip. Equally important is wrapping the thumb of my dominant hand high and just above the 1911's thumb safety. Similarly, my support hand also grips high and wraps comfortably around my lower three fingers.

The third fundamental I learned was sight alignment, and the importance of focusing on the front sight. Because of a short sight radius, miniscule inaccuracies in sight alignment can throw a shot way off. Perfect sight alignment results in accurate shots. Worthy of note, out of the box my Kimber was consistently shooting about two inches to the right. A minor adjustment to the rear sight and it is now spot on.

And the last fundamental I learned was trigger control. It's imperative to avoid slapping, or jerking, the trigger. My first couple trips to the range, I was surprisingly accurate, but learned that discipline was in order. After 50 rounds or so, I tended to become overconfident and loosen my form. In turn, the odd shot went a few inches off to the right or left. Just like shooting a long gun. The goal should always be to achieve a smooth and consistent trigger pull to the rear, with no left or right torque. Essentially, I've learned it's important to maintain minimal, even pressure – in the middle of the pad of your pointer finger – straight to the rear and maintain constant pressure throughout the trigger pull. Remembering that jerking or pulling the shot tends to activate the other three fingers of your dominant hand and that can ultimately move your muzzle off target. To at least some extent, just like with shooting a rifle, you shouldn't really know precisely when it will break.

GOING FORWARD

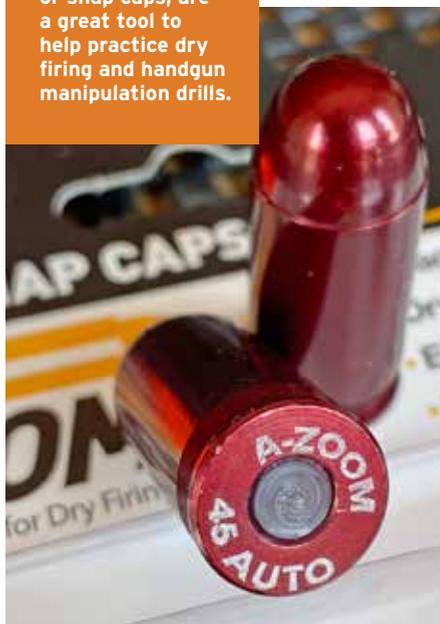
It's been a long road, and I've learned a lot, with much more information to absorb. But first I must integrate what I already know so well that it becomes

second nature. In my work as a problem wildlife specialist, I'm expected to be the expert, both in subject matter and with the tools of the trade. I passed the shooting test for my ATC with a perfect score, but shooting is a perishable skill and there's always room for improvement, so I intend to keep practicing. 🏆



A less expensive practice round, Winchester's 185-grain FMJ is a good option for practice.

Dummy rounds, or snap caps, are a great tool to help practice dry firing and handgun manipulation drills.



WILDERNESS ATC

Qualifying for a wilderness ATC is a multi-level process which includes background checks, interviews and a demonstration of handgun competence. The following is the course of fire which the applicant must pass:

EQUIPMENT: Pistol or revolver (minimum 357 Magnum calibre), full power ammunition and belt holster equipped with a retention strap.

TARGET: A circle with a radius of nine inches (23 centimetres)

DISTANCES: Five, 10 and 15 metres

POSITION: Standing and kneeling unsupported from each distance

SHOTS: Six rounds standing, followed by six rounds kneeling from each distance

TIME LIMIT: Draw gun from holster and fire each six-shot string in 20 seconds

TOTAL ROUNDS FIRED: 36

POSSIBLE SCORE: Standing - 18; kneeling - 18

PASSING GRADE: Minimum of 15 hits for every 18 rounds fired from each shooting position

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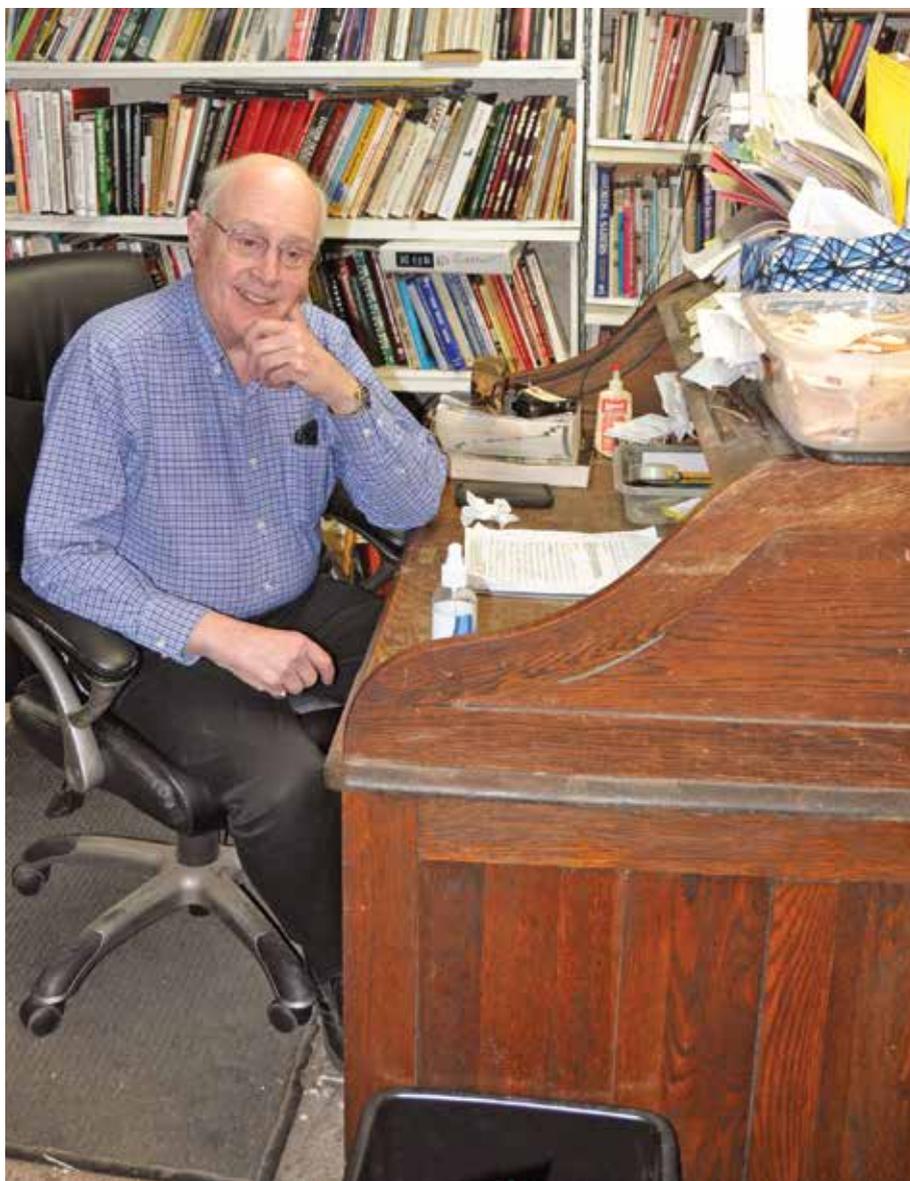
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A LIFE IN GUNS

Joe Salter, firearms collector

BY DON MACLEAN



When I was growing up, there were always firearms hanging on the wall of our back porch. My father had one gun, a Cooney single-shot 12 gauge, which he used to hunt everything from deer to rabbits. As my brother and I grew, we received .22s and .410s for Christmas and birthdays. I still have them, along with our father's shotgun. While Dad managed to make do with one gun, I always figured I was ill equipped unless I had a firearm for each specific task, so over the years I assembled a collection of rifles and shotguns as finances allowed. Today, my gun case holds 14 long guns, which, except for a couple of antique flintlocks that I plan on hanging on the wall of my camp someday, all see some time in the field. While I've amassed a modest collection, which I get a lot of enjoyment from, it pales in comparison when I had the opportunity to meet a professional collector, Joe Salter, QC, of North Sydney on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia.

I had never met Joe, but I often heard his name over the years when I met or interviewed people involved in firearm businesses around Atlantic Canada. He runs two well-known online firearm businesses in Canada (joesalter.ca) and the United States (joesalter.com). I was interested in learning not only about his life as a gun collector, but also about the experience of running firearm >



Joe with some of his parts inventory.

businesses in both countries, so I was pleased when he agreed to meet with me at his office.

Joe was born in North Sydney 76 years ago and has lived there all his life. His great-grandfather, Joe Salter, was a seaman who sailed the world before settling in Moncton, NB, where he opened a shipyard. Eventually, the family moved to North Sydney and when Joe was growing up he remembers playing with antique swords and pistols which had belonged to his great-grandfather. "I credit that experience with instilling in me the interest in firearms and military memorabilia that I still have today. I played with them as a child as well."

It wasn't long before Joe began his

collecting career. "When I was 12 years old, I had a paper route which provided me with some spending money, which I saved religiously in a Moirs candy box." He told me there were no gun shops in North Sydney when he was growing up, but there were a couple of second-hand furniture shops and each of them had a rack of old guns for sale. "They were mainly old military guns, which you couldn't get ammunition for anymore, so they weren't too expensive. I can remember paying around \$5 for a rifle. That was the beginning of my collection, and by 1958 I would say I was a gun collector."

Joe told me there were no books on firearms available to him at the time,



Joe with the photo booth used for photographing firearms.

so when he discovered Guns magazine, along with Guns and Ammunition and Gun Digest, his interest in guns ramped up.

I asked him if he only collected long guns in the beginning. "No, I collected whatever I could find, and afford. By the 1960s, people were beginning to specialize in what they collected. Some wanted Lugers or muskets. The price for them began to go up, so I bought what other people didn't want and was still affordable."

Joe's gun collecting took a big step forward in 1963. "I would pick up old handguns that I could afford and when I had a few of them I would go down to the local RCMP detachment to register them. It was a small detachment with only four officers, and they had a big area to cover so they were busy." This began to become

a regular occurrence and one day when Joe arrived with a paper bag full of handguns, the staff sergeant called him into his office and told him they had a problem. "What do you mean?" Joe asked, "The guns are legal."

"Yes, they are," the staff sergeant replied, "But it is taking up a lot of my officer's time to do the paperwork for these guns, so this is what we're going to do." With that, Joe told me he handed him an application for a licence to become a gun dealer. "Now, you can do the paperwork," the staff sergeant told him.

"I wasn't 21 then, meaning I wasn't old enough to become a dealer, so we registered it with my father's insurance business, Salter Agency, and the rest is history." Joe went on to attend the University of



New Brunswick and then Dalhousie Law School before returning to North Sydney in the 1970s to practice real estate law, a practice he still maintains.

"Did you collect guns during this period?" I asked.

"Yes, I was always on the lookout for guns," he replied. "I couldn't afford to buy and keep everything that I wanted, so I began to sell a few so I could buy something else when I had the opportunity."

While attending law school in Halifax, Joe began to meet other collectors. "Dr. Ross MacInnis was a major collector at that time and through him I met other people involved in collecting. They began to organize some gun shows and that exposed me to other collectors."

When he moved back to North Sydney, Joe began to balance a young family and law practice with his growing interest in firearms. "I used to travel across Canada attending gun shows. I was in every province." Joe told me that when he followed the gun show circuit, he attended shows in Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Montreal, Quebec City and the Maritime provinces.

"Those shows gave me national exposure, which certainly helped me develop my firearm business," he told me. Joe also began to attend gun shows in the United States, which opened a whole new world for him.

"What did you buy?" I asked

"I bought everything I could afford. Gun parts, guns and military memorabilia. It was an interesting time in my life. I discovered that firearms which might be collectible in the west weren't as popular in the east, and vice versa, so money could be made at that time. I was fortunate to meet and become friends with some of the most significant collectors and firearm dealers in the United States. The amount I learned from these encounters was very important in the development of my business."

As Joe's reputation as a collector and dealer grew, he began to be approached by individuals who wanted



Joosalter.ca offers a wide variety of firearms, militaria and collectibles for sale.



to sell gun collections. "Over my 60 years in the business, I have handled numerous collections across the country. The largest one included 900 firearms and several truckloads of ammunition."

I asked Joe how he advertised his business over the years. "Well, I began prior to the Internet, so I advertised in newspapers and magazines." Joe told me he used to post an ad for his business in Royal Canadian Legions across Cape Breton. I asked him if that brought in some business. "Oh yes, a lot of guys brought stuff back from the Second World War and their family would often want to get rid of it, so I bought a lot that way."

I asked him if he ever considered opening a gun shop. "No, I was never interested in a brick-and-mortar store. The email order business developed over time and today neither our US nor Canadian businesses are open to the public."

Joe's motto for his business is, "Something for everyone."

"We don't specialize in any one type of firearm, but instead deal in everything from long guns and handguns to antique and vintage ammunition, edged weapons and books and catalogues." His American site bears out his claim, with an impressive 50

categories on the site ranging alphabetically from vintage ammunition to Winchesters.

I asked him how the price of firearms has changed over the years he has been collecting. "Oh, back in the 1950s, the average price for a German Luger or a Colt .45 was in the \$10 to \$15 range. I could buy a brand-new Lee Enfield from International Firearms in Montreal for \$15 each in a case lot. One time I bought five cases with 10 guns in each case."

When he was attending gun shows across Canada and the United States, Joe told me he travelled with his guns in specially made aluminum cases. I asked him if he ever ran into problems crossing the border with firearms. "Not back then, it was a common thing to do, and I had a dealer's licence with all the paperwork, so it was never an issue. Now the process of international firearms shipments is becoming more and more problematic."

I was curious about the current interest in gun collecting. Joe replied, "I would say it is waning. The prime time for collecting was after the Second World War, when there were a lot of firearms that came home with military personnel. In the United States, soldiers could register a fire-

arm they picked up on the battlefield as a trophy of war and then legally send or bring it home. Canadians couldn't do that, so they had to find a way of bringing them home any way they could." Joe told me that returning troop ships were often inspected for contraband, so a lot of firearms, swords and bayonets ended up being dumped out of portholes before the ship docked.

"The prosperity that followed the war led to more disposable income, which enabled collectors to begin building their collections in both countries. That is when specialization began, with collectors who would only want Winchesters or flintlocks and so on. Some wonderful collections were amassed during that period."

In addition to his business, Joe has actively been involved in a number of gun organizations over the years. "I sat on the advisory board for Gun Report for eight years and was president of the Winchester Club of America for five years." Joe also served on the Gun Collectors and Gold Medal Award committees of the National Rifle Association up until 2021. He also served on the board of directors of the American Society of Arms Collectors.

I was curious about the differences in running a firearms business in the United States compared to Canada, and Joe began by telling me how he came to have a business in the States. "In the late 1990s, I could see the writing on the wall in terms of gun control in Canada, and I decided to look at opportunities in the States. I applied for, and received, an entrepreneurial visa which allowed me to operate and own a business."

Joe told me that each visa is good for five years and he is currently on his fifth visa renewal. He also told me that, contrary to popular belief, most states have very strict controls on firearms, as strict, or stricter, than those in Canada. He also has strong opinions about the current conversations regarding gun control in Canada. "Legal firearms are not the issue," he told me. "It is the illegal firearms which are causing problems and they should be

targeting the criminals, not legal gun owners."

As someone who enjoys collecting books on outdoor topics ranging from hunting to fly fishing and fly tying, I was impressed with Joe's extensive reference library on firearms. "It began when I was starting out and would buy any book I could find on firearms, and I've built it up over the years." Joe's interest in literature related to firearms and military led him to become involved in the book business. "I had the good fortune of becoming friends with James Gooding who founded the Canadian Journal of Arms Collecting in 1963. Over time, the journal became international in nature and was rebranded as Arms Collecting, which published until 2002. James was also instrumental in developing the Historical Arms Series." When the opportunity to purchase Gooding's publishing business came up, Joe jumped at the chance. Today, both the HAS books, as well as a wide variety of other firearm and military publications, are available on his American website.

I asked Joe if he's as interested in firearms now as he was as a young boy 70 years ago. "Definitely. Every day there is something new, and I am on the go from 8:30 in the morning until midnight."

Before I left, Joe gave me a tour of his Canadian operation. It was a maze of rooms, each one full of firearms, firearm parts or ammunition. I was amazed at the extent of the firearm parts Joe had in his inventory, and even more amazed that he knew not only where everything was, but also what it was for. He showed me the photo booth they use to document items which go on the website. The business is very much a family affair, with his wife doing the photography. His son, Joe Jr., now a citizen of the United States, manages JoeSalter.com.

Our final stop was at Joe's office, where he showed me one of his most recent acquisitions. It was a leather vest, complete with fringes along the edges. I thought it looked kind of neat until Joe explained its providence,

which magnified my interest. "This came from out west and is made from bison leather, but have a look at the buttons." I took a closer look at the tarnished metal buttons running up the front of the vest. He explained that the buttons were from the uniform of a North-West Mounted Police officer. "They were sent out to the frontier with their regular red serge, and they soon discovered that it wasn't up to the conditions they were exposed to. Those who could afford to bought the type of clothing the locals were wearing and, to make it an official part of their kit, they would take the buttons off their uniform to put on this clothing." As I held the vest in my hands, I imagined what the person wearing it had seen and experienced and I left with a renewed interest in, and admiration for, the people who are ensuring this part of our history is being preserved. 🍷

THE HISTORICAL ARMS SERIES

The Historical Arms Series (HAS) is a collection of 38 titles covering a wide range of firearm topics, ranging from Cooley Firearms and Ross Rifles, to the RCMP, Royal Artillery, as well as reprints on military discipline and regulations. The books are very informative, with illustrations, specifications and diagrams which will prove invaluable to collectors and anyone interested in firearms and their history. I leafed through Joe's collection and was impressed with both the high quality of the publications, as well as their reasonable price. As someone who owns several Cooley firearms, I was particularly impressed with the book, *Cooley Firearms, Made in Canada 1919-1979*, which details the 67 models made by the company ranging from the first Cooley Canuck to the final models made in conjunction with Winchester.



MAKE YOUR OWN CLAYS CADDY-A DIY GUN CART

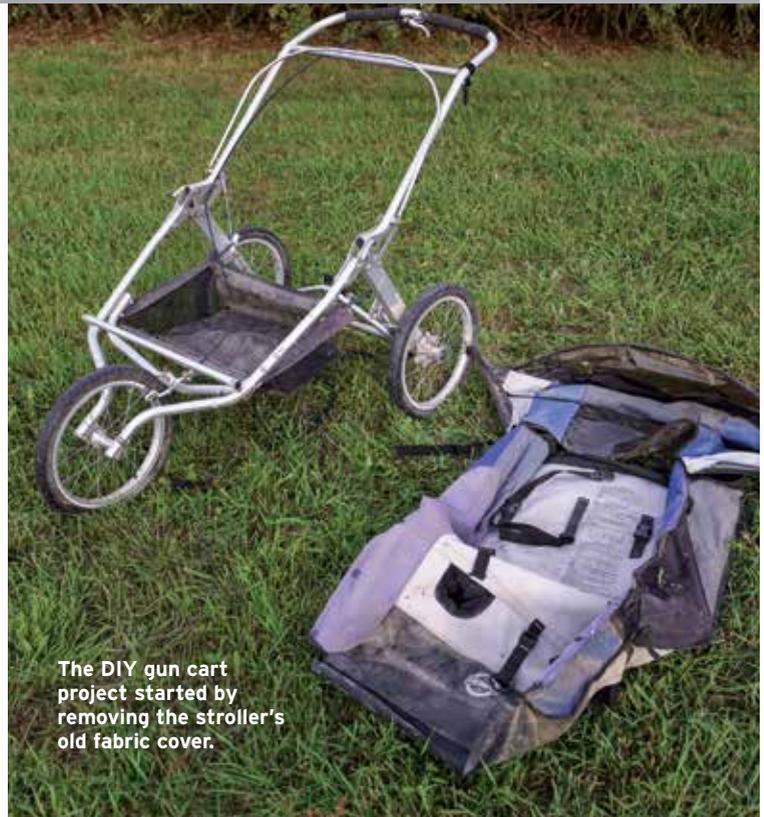
No more heavy lifting
BY LOWELL STRAUSS



“Sporting clays is like golf with a shotgun,” they say. I’m not a golfer; however, the prospect of shooting clay targets in a dazzling array of presentations really appealed to me. Nobody was wearing tweed jackets at my first sporting clays match, but I saw people swapping chokes, ammunition, and even shotguns between stations. That’s the golf-like part. I also noticed serious shooters pushing three-wheeled carts loaded with guns and gear. By the ninth station, I understood why! Ammunition and extras are heavy, and here I was lugging mine around like a sucker.

Although many years have passed, I’ve never stopped dreaming about those carts. New units are available, but they start at \$350 USD and go up from there. A DIY project was definitely in order.

One day, luck was on my side. I spotted a discarded jogging stroller and immediately started dreaming about converting it into a gun cart. The Internet is rich with ideas for homegrown projects, and I found dozens of gun cart ideas on Pinterest. The designs settled into two different categories. One design uses a large-wheeled jogging stroller as the frame – a good setup for sporting clays and 3-gun competitions. The other design uses children’s bicycle tires or garden cart tires to move detailed wooden boxes. The second type is usually a western-themed design, built by and for cowboy action shooters. Itching to use my newly acquired stroller frame, I went with the first design.



The DIY gun cart project started by removing the stroller’s old fabric cover.

THE DESIGN

Like many of my DIY projects, there were no detailed plans available for this gun cart, but that’s half the fun. And unless the project starts completely from scratch, the dimensions in any plans need adjusting anyway. So, my design process started with a tape measure, utility knife and large pieces of cardboard.

The base jogging stroller (Running Room brand) is a double-wide design,

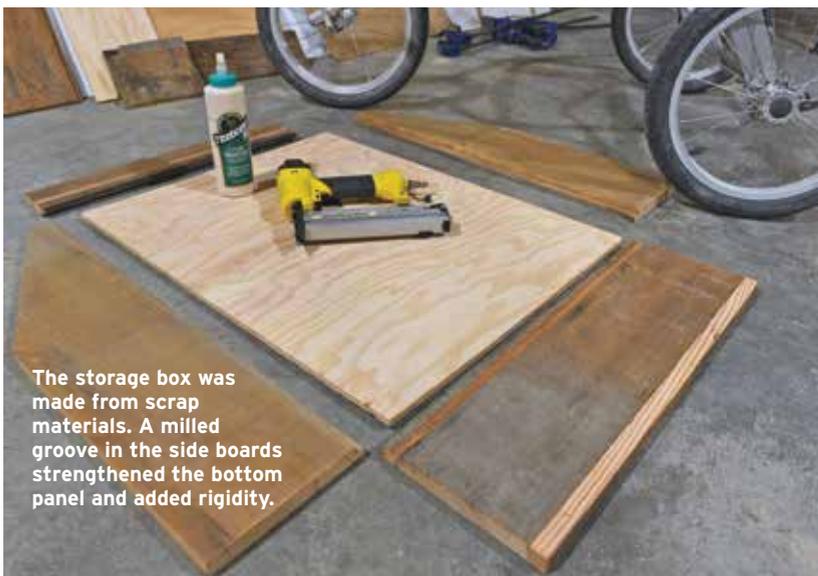
allowing space for a large storage area within the existing frame. The clearance between the sides of the frame is 21 inches, and front to back measured 26 inches.

I originally planned on a hybrid design, one between the cowboy action-style carts with vertically mounted guns (muzzle pointing up) and the stroller style with muzzle-forward firearms. After mocking up my design with cardboard, I reverted to the muzzle-down approach. For this simple project, I jotted down the critical dimensions and it was off to the shop to get started.

THE BUILD

Minimizing project costs is essential, and for me, it adds to the smug factor at the end of the build. I’d already scored a free jogging stroller, and a search of my scrap wood bin netted the 3/8-inch plywood, which became the bottom of the storage box. Various scrap eight-inch-wide boards (3/4-inch thick) were ripped and cut to final dimensions. A few screws, brad nails, glue and wood stain complete the supplies list; in total, less than \$20, none of which was out-of-pocket.

The storage area of my cart is 21 by 26 inches and 7.5 inches deep at the



The storage box was made from scrap materials. A milled groove in the side boards strengthened the bottom panel and added rigidity.

back, tapering to two inches at the front. I cut the sides and ends to length and then milled a groove in the boards to accept the plywood, strengthening the bottom. Glue and brad nails secure the sides together.

For securing the firearm's stocks, I cut a backing board and faceplate, fastening them to the frame with screws. The two firearm supports use half-inch by 3.5-inch wooden dowels spaced 2.5 inches apart.

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

If you like this design and want to build one of your own, keep an eye out for jogging strollers at garage sales, thrift stores or from friends and family. For simple, specific gun-mounting hardware, check out Kolpin's Rhino Grip gear holders. They quickly and easily mount to flat or round surfaces and offer a professional look and function. These ready-to-go grips are relatively expensive, but worth it to some for the utility and convenience. However, make-your-own gun mounts are relatively simple, as you can see in the nearby photos.

ROLLING ON

Some online designs are built on handcarts, pressure washer carts and other retired wheeled trolleys. While I'm sure they serve the builder's purpose, I favour this design. My clays caddy has large enough wheels that it can handle rougher terrain; one of the benefits of using a jogging stroller over smaller-wheeled carts or strollers.

I'm happy with the result, and like every DIYer, I'm already thinking of ways to modify and upgrade it. A water bottle holder, hook for my ear-pro, a built-in shooting stick and holder for spent shotshell hulls are just a few of the things I'm considering. Next year, I plan on using it for varmint hunting in the spring and sporting clays in the summer.

Now I think it's time to try out my new sporting clays caddy. I'm going to take my 'babies' for a stroll. This is my kind of golf! 🏹



Large tires on this jogging stroller provide excellent clearance and an ability to navigate rough terrain - perfect for the sporting clays course or the varmint fields.



The DIY gun cart has room for plenty of gear, guns and ammunition



NFA

FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
RESPONSIBILITY.



SAFE & SECURE

Modern options for storing firearms

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

Ilock my firearms in a secure place for three reasons: It's the law, and I'm a law-abiding firearms owner; curious children (enough said!); and finally, to prevent theft or loss in a fire. Gun owners have a plethora of storage options, from simple cable and trigger locks to room-sized vaults. Today, we'll highlight a few of these secure storage solutions and explore ideas for keeping you and your family safe and your firearms protected.

STORAGE LAWS

In Canada, we must store firearms unloaded and in a way which prevents access by unauthorized users. For non-restricted firearms, this means removing the bolt or installing a cable or trigger lock or, conversely, locking them in high-security containers like vaults, safes or secure rooms. There are exceptions to these rules when storing a non-restricted firearm for predator control in some rural locations or remote wilderness areas.

Restricted and prohibited firearms require an additional layer of security; specifically, a disabling lock of some type such as a trigger lock. These firearms must also be locked in a cabinet, container or room.

Automatic firearms have the most stringent laws governing their storage, and licensed owners must take the extra steps necessary to prevent misuse.

Ammunition, too, has special storage rules; however, in a nutshell, it must

not be easily accessible for loading into a firearm.

In the Canadian Firearms Safety Course, instructors ask students one legal way to safely store a non-restricted firearm at home. Inevitably, most students say, "Unloaded, with a trigger or cable lock, and in a locked gun case." Some add, "In a locked room with ammunition locked up separately," just for good measure. This is more than is required by law, but are they wrong? No. In fact, by adding additional layers of security, the chance of an accident, misuse or loss decreases substantially.

Visualize several slices of Swiss cheese stacked side by side. The holes don't all end up in the same place. Now picture each slice as a layer of defence for your firearms. A cable lock prevents unauthorized users from loading the firearm, but it doesn't prevent theft. Locking a firearm in a storage container bolted may prevent theft and misuse but doesn't protect the firearm from fire. An insulated, fire-rated safe protects from most risks but may be cost-prohibitive or impractical (try getting a heavy gun safe into a third-floor apartment). Thinking about these layers helps us choose a solution that's right for us.

SAFE STORAGE & SECURE STORAGE

Safe storage prevents children and other untrained or unauthorized users from loading and firing the firearm. Cable locks and trigger locks fall into

this category. By removing the bolt on a non-restricted firearm, it's rendered unshootable and, therefore, safe.

Most new firearms are shipped with a basic locking device. Specialty locks, like those for lever-actions, feature a custom-fit metal bracket and padlock that blocks the action, preventing it from being opened. While these simple locks stop loading, they do not deter thieves. If stolen, they can simply cut, break or jimmy the lock. To impede access, savvy owners step up to more robust security. There are dozens of options, so do some research to find the features right for you.

Big box retailers like Cabela's and Canadian Tire, plus many independent stores, sell various brands and models, from entry-level cabinets to high-end safes.

On the high-tech side, one company pouring research and development into gun storage is Hornady. They've developed a suite of products for firearms storage. I reached out to Hornady's Marketing Communications Manager, Seth Swerczek, to learn more about Hornady's two lines of firearm storage products: Hornady Security's RAPiD safes and SnapSafe's modular safes and vault doors.

Hornady's safes use modern RFID (radio-frequency identification) technology, which provides the best of both worlds – quick access and enhanced security.

"Hornady's RFID safes are program->

mable; you can use one RFID tag to open any programmed RAPId safe. It's a convenient feature for building a custom security solution," said Swerczek.

With this technology, users could have a safe in the bedroom, one in the garage and yet another in the gun room, and all would open using the same RFID tag. Safes in this series also open with a digital keypad or mechanical key. According to Swerczek, RFID is both faster than biometric locks, and reliable, adding, "I've never heard a report of someone not able to access their firearms when they needed to." Each safe comes with several RFID tags, including watchbands, key fobs and decals, so access is only a swipe away. Hornady RAPId safes come in several shapes and sizes, with other options including smaller handgun boxes and firearm-specific storage like shotgun wall mounts.

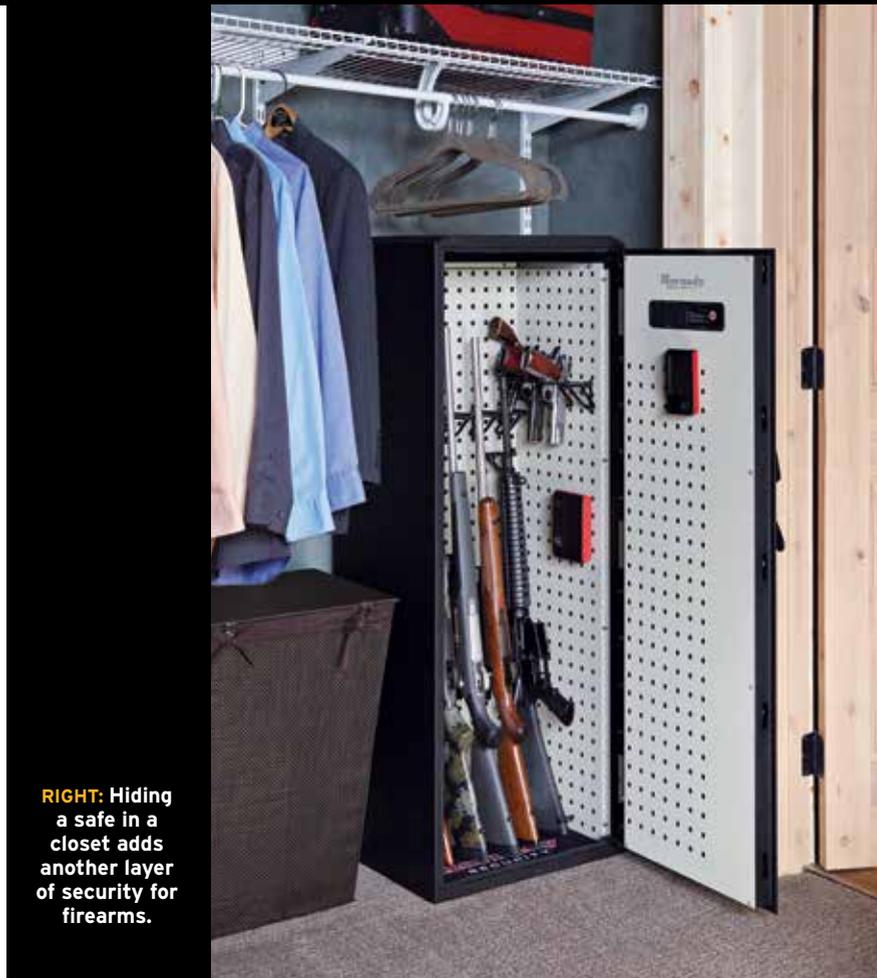
For large gun collections, it's hard to beat a massive safe. Heavy-duty construction enhances security, and the weight prevents opportunistic thieves from removing them. Their weight is also sometimes a detriment to installation, some are so large and heavy, installation must occur during home construction. If these behemoths are an afterthought, the final location may be limited by access, and impossible without the help of professionals. In many cases, once installed, moving it is not an option.

SnapSafe engineers created an innovative safe, one that's delivered in modules, or pieces, each weighing 200 pounds or less, and fitted together in place. "It's a game-changer for large safes. Now anyone can buy and install a large gun safe, anywhere in their home," said Swerczek. "And if you move, you can take it with you. It's a lifetime investment."

These modular safes are designed to offer security equal to or better than traditional welded safes. SnapSafe modular safes have capacity to store extensive gun collections, with their largest model, the Super Titan Double Door, holding 56 guns or more.

While freestanding safes or locking boxes deliver excellent security, a vault room provides advantages that neither of those options offers. A vault is a big step up in storage space compared to a safe.

"SnapSafe vault doors are an easy-to-install, cost-effective option for



RIGHT: Hiding a safe in a closet adds another layer of security for firearms.

turning an existing room into a large-capacity, high-security storage space," noted Swerczek. Locking a whole room allows a single location for safekeeping firearms and other valuables, and costs less than comparable solutions. "Some customers even create their reloading room behind the vault door. It protects firearms, ammunition and reloading components in one space," said Swerczek. Any reinforced wall works as an anchor for the vault's frame; however, it's best to attach the vault door's frame to a concrete wall for maximum security.

DIVIDE & CONQUER

Firearms owners with larger collections but no place for a large safe or vault room may want to divide their collection into a few safes. In the event of a break-in, hopefully, the whole collection isn't lost. A decoy safe is a sneaky idea that may distract thieves looking for firearms. Place the decoy safe in an obvious area with a few, less valuable guns inside, to divert thieves' attention away from the hidden safe(s)

with your prized firearms.

BEST PRACTICES

Firearms storage and security go hand in hand with home security. A comprehensive security plan includes many layers, each adding to overall safety and security for firearms and other valuables.

Safety and security ideas:

Talk to younger children and let them know that firearms are dangerous. Firearms shouldn't be a mystery.

Ensure that everyone 12 years and older in your home takes a Canadian Firearms Safety Course or Hunter Education Course and knows how to safely handle firearms.

Don't advertise the presence of guns on the premises or that you're a gun owner. Signs like "WARNING: Gun Owner, Do Not Trespass" may seem funny, but it advertises there are guns in the house. Likewise, gun decals on a vehicle are a dead giveaway to opportunistic thieves in search of firearms.

Install a security alarm. Wailing sirens and flashing lights make thieves



LEFT: Aftermarket vault doors, like this one from SnapSafe, are easy to install and available in different widths with in-swing or out-swing configurations.

RIGHT: RFID tags include decals (shown here), watchbands and key fobs. A swipe of the RFID tag over the sensor opens the safe.



nervous. And the less time they stay in the house, the less likely they'll find the gun lock-up.

Consider installing your safe inside a closet or other camouflaged spot. If the guns can't be found, they can't be stolen.

For long-term storage, disable firearms by removing bolts and lock them in a different location. The firearm without its bolt is useless.

Keep records of firearms and serial numbers. Consider photographing them as well. If reporting a stolen firearm, the more information you can provide the police, the better. The details may result in a firearm's safe return.

Buy firearm-specific insurance to protect your collection.

Don't leave tools like angle grinders, bolt cutters or screwdrivers near stored firearms. Make it as difficult as possible for thieves to gain access.

Fog cannons deploy a thick cloud of fog in seconds and make it impossible for burglars to steal anything.

These units are pricy but an interesting choice for more advanced security.

STORAGE ACCESSORIES

Moisture and rust are enemies of firearms and ammunition, so create a cool and dry environment for long-term storage. To keep moisture at bay, monitor humidity with a hygrometer, keeping it below 40 per cent. Use aftermarket products like electric dehumidifiers, rechargeable desiccant packs and silicone gun-socks impregnated with rust inhibitors to prevent corrosion.

FINAL THOUGHTS

As firearms owners, we are responsible for our firearms 24/7. Taking proactive measures to secure a firearm makes sense; it's worth the peace of mind. Owners have many choices when it comes to secure storage, from simple to hi-tech. And now with modern technology enabling quick access and enhanced security, there's no excuse not to lock up a firearm. 🗡️

RESOURCES

RCMP - Information & licensing
www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/firearms
 (English)

www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/fr/armes-a-feu
 (French)

Hornady Security - Safety, security, RFID technology

www.hornady.com/security

SnapSafe - Modular safes, vault doors, safe accessories

www.snapsafe.com/



LEFT: Combination locks are favoured by many gun owners because there's no key to misplace.

RIGHT: The plastic lock shown here provides minimal security because it can be easily defeated with common household tools.





Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Politics & The Canadian Firearms Program

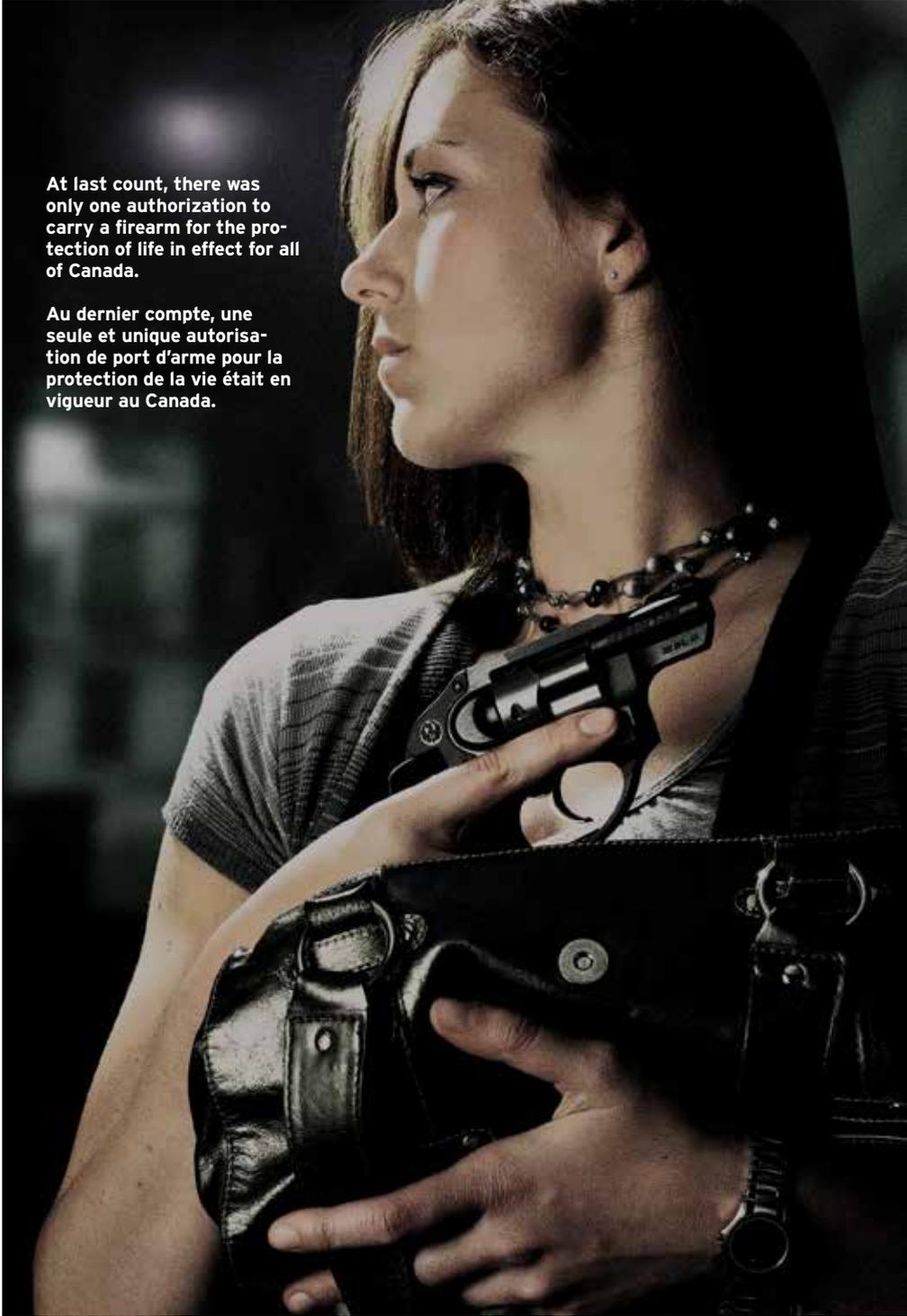
The Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) was created further to the enactment of the *Firearms Act* (Bill C-68) in 1998. The CFP is a two-headed monster: one beast is the registrar of firearms, the other is the chief firearms officer. Canadian gun owners are often confused about their respective roles and how their decisions impact our respective lives, as gun owners. Those roles are currently expanding further to recent legislative changes, of proposed new legislation and inevitably, of electoral promises.

THE ROLE OF THE REGISTRAR

There is only one registrar. For all intents and purposes, the registrar is a unit within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). The registrar, as the name implies, keeps records of firearms, imports, exports and transfers in the form of the Canadian Firearms Registry. They also deliver registration certificates. With the upcoming implementation of certain provisions of Bill C-71 dealing with transfers of non-restricted firearms, the registrar will manage a system of reference numbers (which are, for all intents and purposes, authorizations to transfer non-restricted firearms), as well as underlying information about these transfers.

THE ROLE OF CHIEF FIREARMS OFFICERS

On the other hand, there are multiple chief firearms officers (CFOs). Pursuant to the *Firearms Act*, there can be as many chief firearms officers as there are provinces. It is up to the individual province to decide whether it wants to appoint a chief firearms officer. If it does not, the RCMP acts as the default chief firearms officer for a province that has not availed itself of that power. Historically, the eastern part of the country (Ontario, Quebec, New-Brunswick, Nova scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador) have appointed a CFO. On



At last count, there was only one authorization to carry a firearm for the protection of life in effect for all of Canada.

Au dernier compte, une seule et unique autorisation de port d'arme pour la protection de la vie était en vigueur au Canada.

the other hand, the three territories, as well as British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have not appointed a CFO.

The reasons for holding out are likely varied. In certain provinces where the general view is that the CFP is a problem, the province does or did not want to be viewed or perceived as being part of the problem. That is about to change. As I write this, Alberta has appointed a supposedly gun-owner-friendly CFO, and Saskatchewan may soon follow suit. Territories cannot appoint a CFO, whether they want to or not.

The role of the CFO is to carry out certain discretionary determinations under the Firearms Act. Amongst these determinations are the issuance, revocation, or renewal of firearms licenses, both individual and commercial; the issuance and refusal of authorizations to transport; the approval and monitoring of gun ranges; the issuance or refusal of authorizations to carry firearms; and finally, the approval of transfers of restricted and prohibited firearms.

POLICY & AGENDAS

CFOs are not supposed to be policy makers. They are supposed to follow legislation and underlying policy enacted at the federal level. The reality is that they are, to a certain extent (rightly or wrongly), policy makers. One example is that CFOs for all four Atlantic provinces have thus far denied all applications by licensed trappers for authorizations to carry restricted firearms for professional purposes, although federal regulations recognize that trappers do have a need to carry such a firearm. Those authorizations are issued, not always without problem, in Ontario, Quebec and in jurisdictions where the RCMP is the acting CFO. Another case in point is the extremely low number of authorizations to carry issued for the protection of life. At last count, there was only one such authorization in effect for all of Canada, even though the Firearms Act expressly mentions the "protection of life" as a justification to possess restricted firearms.

CFOs' actions and decisions are also strongly conditioned by their proximity to police forces. Some provincial

CFOs are senior police officers. They typically employ staff consisting of a mix of police staff and civilian employees. The latter are called firearm officers.

Firearm officers' primary, and often sole, source of information is information collected by police forces. Although they have the power, ability and I would dare say duty to investigate, they seldom use that power. A simple report of an incident that entails the use of a firearm in a way firearm officers disapprove of, such as in circumstances of self defense, albeit without a shot being fired or the firearm even being loaded, often results in the revocation of a firearms license, without any further consideration. After encountering several of those cases over the years, I would dare to say that firearm officers' decisions are often agenda driven and not always made in the interest of public safety.

RECENT CHANGES & MORE CHANGES ON THE HORIZON

Recent legislative changes have increased the workload of CFOs. As a result of the recent enactment of certain provisions of Bill C-71, owners of restricted and 12(6) prohibited firearms must once again apply for and obtain prior authorizations to take their restricted and 12(6) prohibited firearms to gunsmiths, appraisers, verifiers, police stations, gun shows and ports of entry. Of course, this accomplishes nothing but creates more paperwork and an additional burden, which takes away potentially valuable resources that could be better employed otherwise, such as actually fighting crime.

In the recently filed and for now moot Bill C-21, the Liberal government proposed to transfer the responsibility for issuance of authorizations to carry (ATC) for the protection of life from CFOs to the registrar. I have absolutely no doubt that this move is because of Alberta's and Saskatchewan's decision to appoint their own CFO, and the fear that these new appointees might be more gun-owner friendly and thus prone to deliver ATCs. As previously mentioned, very few authorizations to carry have ever been issued for the protection of life, and the Liberals

intend to keep it that way. I have no doubt that this proposal will resurface if, God forbid, the Liberals are returned to power on Sept. 20, 2021. (Note to reader: I am writing this column before the federal general election, due to editorial deadlines, but it will only be published after the election has taken place).

ELECTION PROMISES

Our gun laws and the structure of the CFP are a reflection that our governments view so-called gun crime as a gun problem, rather than as a criminality problem. Little of it is devised to address misuse of firearms or illegal access to firearms. None of it addresses the root causes of criminality.

As the federal general election campaign goes on, the Liberals keep making promises to allegedly keep our communities safe by fighting gun crime. Those promises include the elimination of magazines that can be returned to full capacity and a ban on those that can be used with a greater number of cartridges than what the magazine was designed for (e.g., 40 S&W magazines in a 9X19 handgun). They are also promising to transfer funds to provinces and municipalities that will agree to ban handguns on their territory. Of course, none of those measures will affect criminals in the least, since no one who possesses a firearm illegally and intends to use it to harm others is likely to comply with magazine capacity limits or turn in their illegally obtained guns. It is much easier for politicians to vow to disarm the target shooters who have nothing to do with criminality.

To make an analogy, it is as if to allegedly address the opioid crisis, the Liberals promised to close pharmaceuticals and prohibit doctors from prescribing morphine and other pain killers to cancer patients, while at the same time turning a blind eye to drug dealers and back-alley labs making fentanyl and other street drugs. If that were to occur, the media would no doubt be up in arms (no pun intended). Yet, this is exactly what the Liberals have been doing and are proposing to keep doing about firearms. 



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

La Politique Et Le Programme Canadien Des Armes À Feu

Le Programme canadien des Armes à feu (le « PCAF ») a été créé à la suite de l'adoption de la *Loi sur les armes à feu* (projet de loi C-68) en 1998. Le PCAF est une hydre à deux têtes : la première tête est le Directeur de l'enregistrement des armes à feu, l'autre est le Contrôleur des armes à feu. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu canadiens sont souvent confus quant à leurs rôles respectifs et à l'incidence de leurs décisions sur leurs vies respectives, en tant que propriétaires d'armes à feu. Ces rôles prennent de l'ampleur en fonction des changements législatifs récents, des mesures législatives proposées et, inévitablement, des promesses électorales des politiciens.

LE RÔLE DU DIRECTEUR DE L'ENREGISTREMENT

Il n'y a qu'un seul Directeur de l'enregistrement. À toutes fins utiles, le Directeur de l'enregistrement est une division opérationnelle de la Gendarmerie royale du Canada (« GRC »). Le Directeur de l'enregistrement, comme son nom l'indique, tient des registres des armes à feu, des importations, des exportations et des cessions sous la forme du Registre canadien des armes à feu. Il émet également des certificats d'enregistrement. Avec la mise en œuvre prochaine de certaines dispositions du projet de loi C-71 traitant des transferts d'armes à feu sans restriction, le Directeur de l'enregistrement gèrera un système de numéros de référence (qui sont, à toutes fins utiles, des autorisations de cession d'armes à feu sans restriction) ainsi que des renseignements sous-jacents à ces cessions.

LE RÔLE DES CONTRÔLEURS DES ARMES À FEU

D'autre part, il y a plusieurs Contrôleurs des armes à feu (« CFO »). En vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu, il peut y avoir autant de Contrôleurs des armes à feu qu'il y a de provinces. C'est à la province de décider si elle



CFO duties include the approval and monitoring of shooting ranges.

Le rôle des contrôleurs des armes à feu inclut l'approbation et la supervision des champs de tir à la cible.

veut ou non nommer un Contrôleur des armes à feu. Si ce n'est pas le cas, la GRC agit d'office à titre de Contrôleur des armes à feu pour une province qui ne s'est pas prévalu de ce pouvoir. Historiquement, la partie orientale du pays (Ontario, Québec, Nouveau-Brunswick, Nouvelle-Écosse, Île-du-Prince-Édouard et Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador) a nommé un Contrôleur des armes à feu. D'autre part, les trois territoires, ainsi que la Colombie-Britannique, l'Alberta, la Saskatchewan et le Manitoba n'ont pas nommé de Contrôleur des armes à feu.

Les raisons de s'abstenir de nommer un Contrôleur des armes à feu sont probablement variées. Dans certaines provinces où l'opinion générale est que le PCAF est un problème, la province ne veut pas être considérée ou perçue comme faisant partie du problème. Cela est sur le point de changer. Au moment où j'écris ces lignes,

l'Alberta a nommé un Contrôleur des armes à feu présumément favorable aux propriétaires d'armes à feu, et la Saskatchewan pourrait bientôt emboîter le pas. Les territoires ne peuvent pas nommer leur propre Contrôleur des armes à feu, qu'ils le veuillent ou non.

Le rôle du Contrôleur des armes à feu est de prendre certaines décisions discrétionnaires en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu. Parmi ces décisions: la délivrance, la révocation ou le renouvellement de permis d'armes à feu, tant individuels que commerciaux; la délivrance et le refus d'autorisations de transport; l'approbation et la surveillance des champs de tir; la délivrance ou le refus d'autorisations de porter des armes à feu; et enfin, l'approbation des cessions d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibée.

POLITIQUE ET PROGRAMME

Les Contrôleurs des armes à feu ne sont

pas censés énoncer des règles. Ils sont des décideurs censés suivre les lois et les politiques sous-jacentes adoptées au niveau fédéral. La réalité est que, dans une certaine mesure (à tort ou à raison), leurs décisions sont teintées par la politique. À titre d'exemple, les Contrôleurs des armes à feu des quatre provinces de l'Atlantique ont jusqu'à présent rejeté toutes les demandes d'autorisation de port d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte à des fins professionnelles par des trappeurs, bien que la réglementation fédérale reconnaisse que les trappeurs aient besoin de porter une telle arme à feu dans le cadre de leurs activités professionnelles. Ces autorisations sont délivrées, pas toujours sans problème, en Ontario, au Québec et dans les juridictions où la GRC agit comme Contrôleur des armes à feu. Un autre exemple est le nombre extrêmement faible d'autorisations de port d'armes délivrées pour la protection de la vie. Au dernier compte, il n'y avait qu'une seule autorisation de ce type en vigueur pour l'ensemble du Canada, malgré le fait que la Loi sur les armes à feu mentionne expressément la « protection de la vie » comme justification de la possession d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte.

Les actions et les décisions des Contrôleurs des armes à feu sont également fortement conditionnées par leur proximité avec les corps de police. Certains Contrôleurs des armes à feu sont des officiers de police supérieurs. Ils emploient généralement du personnel composé d'un mélange de policiers et d'employés civils. Ces derniers sont appelés des préposés aux armes à feu.

La principale et souvent unique source d'information des préposés aux armes à feu est l'information recueillie par les services de police. Bien qu'ils aient le pouvoir, la capacité et j'oserais dire le devoir d'enquêter, ils utilisent rarement ce pouvoir. Un simple signalement d'un incident qui implique l'utilisation d'une arme à feu d'une manière que les préposés aux armes à feu désapprouvent, par exemple dans des circonstances de légitime défense, bien qu'aucun coup de feu ne soit tiré ou que l'arme à feu ne soit pas même chargée, entraîne souvent la révocation

d'un permis d'armes à feu, sans autre considération. Après avoir été confronté à plusieurs de ces cas au fil des ans, j'oserais dire que les décisions des agents d'armes à feu sont souvent dictées par les orientations politiques et ne sont pas toujours prises dans l'intérêt de la sécurité publique.

CHANGEMENTS RÉCENTS ET À VENIR

De récents changements législatifs ont augmenté la charge de travail des Contrôleurs des armes à feu. À la suite de la mise en œuvre de certaines dispositions du projet de loi C-71, les propriétaires d'armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et d'armes à feu prohibées en 12(6) doivent de nouveau demander et obtenir des autorisations préalables afin de transporter leurs armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et prohibées (12(6)) chez les armuriers, évaluateurs, et vérificateurs, aux postes de police, aux expositions d'armes à feu et aux postes frontaliers. Bien sûr, cela n'accomplit rien d'autre que de créer plus de paperasse et un fardeau bureaucratique supplémentaire, ce qui enlève des ressources potentiellement précieuses qui pourraient être mieux utilisées autrement, notamment dans le cadre de la lutte à la criminalité.

Dans le cadre du projet de loi C-21 récemment déposé et pour l'instant devenu caduque, le gouvernement libéral a proposé de transférer la responsabilité de la délivrance des autorisations de port pour la protection de la vie au Directeur de l'enregistrement. Je n'ai absolument aucun doute que cette décision est le résultat de la décision de l'Alberta et de la Saskatchewan de nommer leur propre Contrôleur des armes à feu et de la crainte que ces Contrôleurs des armes à feu soient plus ouverts envers les propriétaires d'armes à feu et donc enclins à émettre de telles autorisations. Tel que mentionné, très peu d'autorisations de port d'armes ont été délivrées pour la protection de la vie, et les libéraux ont l'intention que cela demeure ainsi. Je n'ai aucun doute que cette proposition refera surface si, Dieu nous en préserve, les libéraux sont reportés au pouvoir le 20 septembre 2021. (Note au lecteur : j'écris cette chronique avant les élections générales fédérales, en raison des délais éditoriaux, mais elle ne sera publiée qu'après l'élection).

PROMESSES ÉLECTORALES

Nos lois sur les armes à feu et la structure du Programme canadien sur les armes à feu reflètent le fait que nos gouvernements considèrent la criminalité par arme à feu comme un problème lié aux armes à feu plutôt que comme un problème de criminalité. Peu de ces lois sont conçues pour lutter contre l'utilisation abusive des armes à feu ou l'accès illégal aux armes à feu. Aucune ne s'attaque aux causes profondes de la criminalité.

Au fur et à mesure que la campagne électorale générale fédérale se poursuit, les libéraux continuent de promettre d'assurer la sécurité de nos collectivités en luttant contre la criminalité par arme à feu. Ces promesses comprennent l'élimination des chargeurs qui peuvent être restaurés à leur pleine capacité et l'interdiction de ceux qui peuvent être utilisés avec un plus grand nombre de cartouches que ce pour quoi le chargeur a été conçu (par exemple, chargeurs 40 S & W dans une arme de poing 9X19). Ils promettent également de transférer des fonds aux provinces et aux municipalités qui accepteront d'interdire les armes de poing sur leur territoire. Bien entendu, aucune de ces mesures n'affectera le moins du monde les criminels, puisqu'une personne qui possède illégalement une arme à feu et qui a l'intention de l'utiliser à des fins criminelles n'est aucunement susceptible de respecter les limites de capacité de chargeur ou de rendre aux policiers ses armes à feu obtenues illégalement. Il est beaucoup plus facile pour les politiciens de se concentrer à désarmer les tireurs sportifs qui n'ont rien à voir avec la criminalité.

Pour faire une analogie, c'est comme si, pour s'attaquer à la crise des opioïdes, les libéraux promettaient de fermer les usines de produits pharmaceutiques et d'interdire aux médecins de prescrire de la morphine et autres analgésiques aux patients atteints de cancer, tout en fermant les yeux sur les trafiquants de drogue et les laboratoires clandestins qui fabriquent du fentanyl et d'autres drogues de rue. Si cela devait se produire, les médias pousseraient sans aucun les hauts cris. Pourtant, c'est exactement ce que les libéraux ont fait et proposent de continuer à faire au sujet des armes à feu. 🚫

Made in Canada

Al Voth

Plenty O' Patches

Long-time readers may be surprised there's no book review on this page. Starting with this issue, the last page of the Canadian Firearms Journal will now feature a column called Made In Canada. For the full story behind the change, please see the editor's page. And as editor of the CFJ, I get the pleasure of writing the first entry.

As the title suggests, the idea here is to highlight Canadian-made products for the shooting sports, especially products which aren't as well known as they should be. And in my opinion, one of the best Canadian products in need of more exposure is a bore-cleaning solvent named 1st Choice, a product of a company called Plenty O' Patches (www.plentyopatches.com).

Plenty O' Patches was started 30 years ago by Doug Feib as a small firm in Regina, supplying cleaning products to the RCMP training facility there. When Doug felt it was time to retire, the company was purchased by Dan and Sue Opel of Alberta, who began taking it to the next level. Being an active benchrest competitor, Dan saw a need for a better bore solvent than what was available and began a one-and-a-half-year quest, working with a chemical company to develop 1st Choice.

The product turned out so good, fellow Canadian benchrest shooters started using it. Word quickly spread to American competitors and now it's the bore cleaner of choice for legends like Tony Boyer and many others, including some top F-class shooters. It's also approved for use by the RCMP, CBSA, Correctional Service of Canada and numerous city police forces. So, I wasn't surprised to see it come up in a recent YouTube discussion of barrel cleaning held by Jack Neary and Eric Cortina, two top precision shooters (www.youtube.com/watch?v=CexakDcnOMU&t=197s).

1st Choice is the only bore cleaner I've used for years, and it always gives stellar performance, acting as a copper solvent and a carbon remover. It has no



odour, is environmentally friendly and has built-in rust inhibitors. I buy it by the gallon, using it in my forensic work as well, where I'll often use it to clean recovered bullets before putting them under the microscope.

Unfortunately, Dan Opel passed away recently, so Sue sold the business to Dean and Sheila Weger, who are growing the company legacy at a new warehouse in Lethbridge, Alta. Plenty

O' Patches distributes many firearm accessories now, but it's worth noting they also make what I believe are the best cleaning patches on the market, and an excellent bolt grease which is packaged in a handy syringe-like dispenser.

Plenty O' Patches is primarily a distributor and strongly encourages customers to go through local dealers and shops to access their products. However, they also realize that doesn't always work, so will accept consumer orders if necessary. Sue still works there, and if you call or visit, you'll quickly realize it's a close-knit family business that holds to strong values of service and support. 

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