

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

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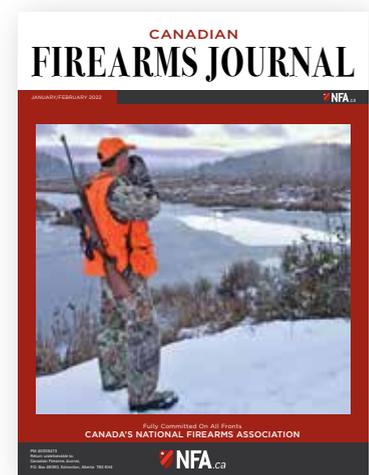
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A history of gun control
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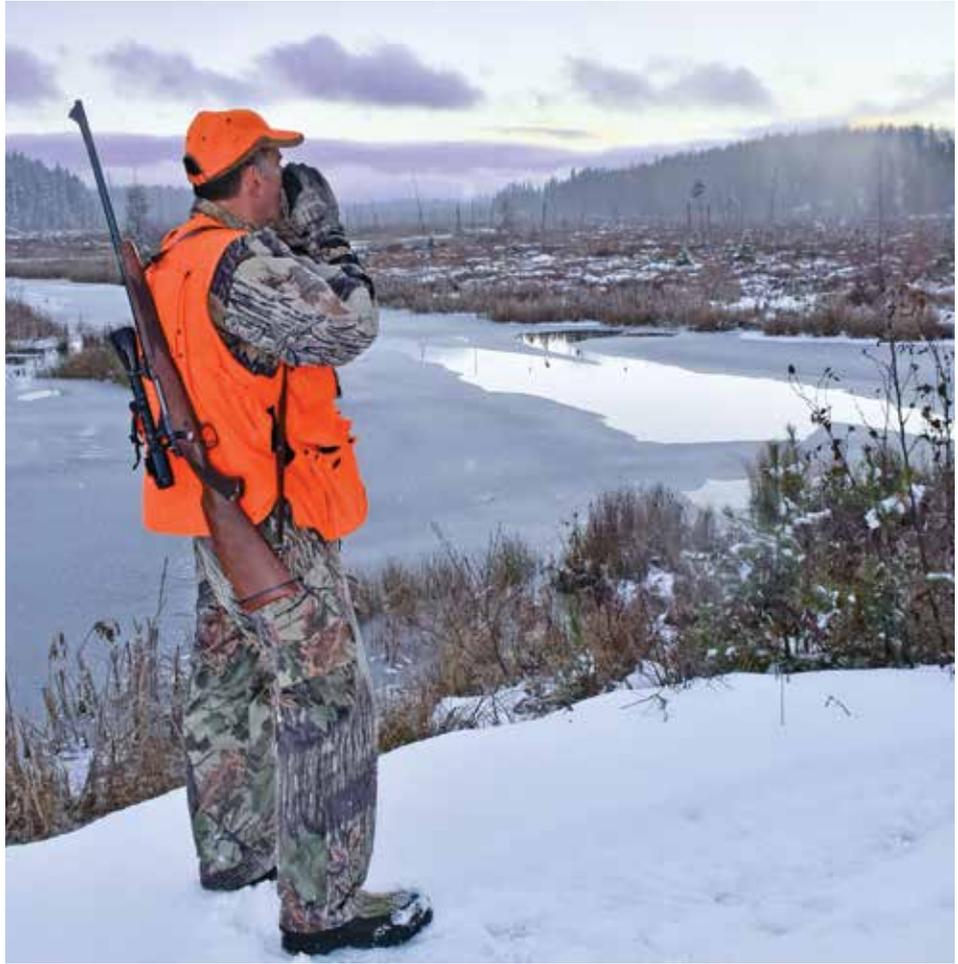
Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all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

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On the Cover

This month's cover comes to us courtesy of Jeff Helsdon, a frequent contributor to this magazine. The photo depicts moose hunter John Piovesan calling over a prime wetland meadow in northwestern Ontario, following a snowfall and a sharp freeze. The Winchester Model 70 slung over his shoulder will be able to handle any bulls that respond to his efforts. 



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Predicting 2022



Most members will be aware by now of the decision by Sheldon Clare, the NFA's long-time president, to step down from that position. Reporting that change here is late news, as the media posts and e-bulletins which have been sent out are much more efficient at relaying this sort of news than a bi-monthly print publication. However, in case there are members out there who haven't heard, we want to mention it here too. Sheldon dedicated more than 11 years of his life fighting for the rights of firearm owners in Canada, so he's more than entitled to take a break from the trenches, move behind the lines and cheer us on from that position.

As I write this, Blair Hagen is stepping into the president's position, and Rick Igercich, an Ontario director, is moving into the vice-president's spot. You can read their respective reports in the usual spots we place the executive messaging in this magazine.

You'll be receiving this issue of the CFJ in the early days of 2022. This will be the first full calendar year of the Liberal/NDP coalition, which will likely govern us for the next two years or so. This is the year when the government promised to buy back all those guns it doesn't want us to have, doing it with money they haven't got, via a system that hasn't been designed yet, by workers still to be determined. Nothing can go wrong.

Well, except for Canadian taxpayers and gun owners, things could go very wrong for them. I'll venture to predict the following, with complete certainty: The project will be astronomically over budget, it'll never get done in anything close to the predicted timeline, it'll leave a lot of the "evil" guns they want to collect in circulation, there will be no reduction in the criminal use of firearms because of this program and politicians will

declare it a resounding success.

It's definitely going to be a year filled with interesting developments in the world of Canadian gun politics. And as deeply as we'll be involved in all those legal and political matters, it's equally important to cut out time this year to enjoy the shooting sports. Politics extracts a heavy toll on the human soul, but time on the range or in the fields with a good gun flushes out that corrosion and rebuilds us for the next round of the fight. So, be sure to make concrete plans to get a lot of trigger time in this year.

You do that and here at the CFJ we'll keep on reporting the relevant news, as well as reporting on ways you can enjoy your firearms. In 2022, look for skill-building articles, new product reports, highlighting of Canadian manufacturers, do-it-yourself projects and much more. It's your magazine, so we'll do our best to make it relevant to you. 



President's Message

Blair Hagen

Working Towards A Better Political Landscape

CHANGES

After 11 years of inspired leadership, our president, Sheldon Clare, has decided to step down.

Sheldon has fought for the rights and freedoms of Canadians for over 30 years, and he is personally responsible for building Canada's National Firearms Association into the powerhouse it is today. He is responsible for our political successes in firearms law reform and for changing firearms politics in Canada forever. His mark on our organization is indelible and every single one of us owes him a debt of gratitude for his great efforts and sacrifices in leading NFA these many years.

ELECTION ANALYSIS

A lot of NFA members have contacted me recently and expressed disappointment with the results of the last federal election.

We did deny Justin Trudeau the new majority government he so desperately wanted, and perhaps in doing so finally laid the groundwork for the end of this Liberal government. But the Conservative Party under Erin O'Toole did not win enough seats to form government. Why did that happen? I think you know why, but let's go over it anyway.

Justin called the election earlier in 2021 when he was riding high in the polls and it appeared the Liberals had the best opportunity to regain the majority they had lost due to their (and his) incompetence, multiple controversies and mishandling of Canada's economy. Mr. O'Toole's Conservatives started strong in that campaign and built momentum, but several things happened by the end which denied them the opportunity to gain the seats necessary to form government.

I must tell you, I have been involved in this political nonsense for a long, long time. I've seen governments come and governments go. When they come, they are focused on correcting the failures and controversies of the previous government and they make that promise to Canadians.

When they go, they do so by failing to provide Canadians with an excuse to continue to form government and correct their mistakes, and it becomes clear the opposition has a better plan and a clear agenda.

Justin's government should have ended on election day 2021.

It did not for several reasons. If you are a Conservative Party member, it happened for a wide variety of reasons, and I will address that later. However, for NFA members it happened because of this: Bill C-71. The CPC started out with a firm commitment to repeal the Liberal's Bill C-71 backdoor gun registry, legislation that still has not been fully implemented due to ballooning costs and logistical log jams. In May 2020, the Liberals imposed an Order in Council "prohibiting" AR-15 and other semi-auto rifles in an attempt to appease left-wing progressive voters who are actually impressed by such saccharine, sugar-coated meaningless stupidity, and who hold the rights and property of Canadians in contempt.

They thought this move would contribute to attracting enough combined left-wing Woke votes in the 2021 federal election that Justin might regain his lost majority government, and therefore allow them to regain political momentum for a renewed legislative agenda. In our election post-mortem with the NFA's strategic election team, which did us great service in the 2021

election, we are informed that it didn't work. The C-71 gun registry and the "assault weapons ban" didn't move one single vote for the Liberals.

Here's what they did do:

Very late in the campaign, the Liberals and their fellow travelers in Canadian mainstream media reignited the gun debate in a deliberate attempt to compromise a resurgent O'Toole CPC. At the beginning of the campaign, Erin O'Toole and the CPC had very wisely undertaken to not only address the C-71 gun registry, but also overturning the Liberal May 2020 OIC if they should form government in 2021.

By the end of the campaign, when the Liberals decided to pull the trigger on their scattergun, last-ditch election gun control blast, the CPC was faced with a decision. Maintain their previously consistent policies and messaging on guns or equivocate in order to deflect some kind of imagined controversy. Instead of maintaining CPC policy of focusing law and law enforcement action and funding on the criminal misuse of firearms, at the end of the 2021 federal election campaign the O'Toole CPC backtracked, equivocated and promised merely to "review" the May 2021 OIC.

This was a grave mistake. The May 2020 Liberal OIC intends to confiscate the property of hundreds of thousands of Canadians, should it be allowed to reach its inevitable conclusion. By weakening its stance on protecting the rights and property of Canadians, the CPC lost hundreds of thousands of votes to a new party, a party which has staked out a position of respecting and protecting the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians, Maxim Bernier's People's Party of Canada (PPC).

I'm sure the bright girls and boys

advising O'Toole thought this was a clever way to deflect Liberal attacks while still maintaining historical CPC support from rights and freedoms voters, but it had exactly the opposite effect. Politically bright girls and boys frequently have the opposite effect they try to achieve in politics.

Today, getting a degree in political science increasingly means not knowing how to change a tire, balance a bank account or even knowing what the hell your neighbors who have to work 9 to 5 and pay bills actually think. Shout out to the politically bright girls and boys: What the Push Pollsters and your chattering class social media friends in downtown Toronto think does not necessarily represent a broad cross-section opinion of Canadians, especially among Conservatives.

Will the CPC learn this very important lesson? I don't know, but here's what you can do. A huge number of NFA members are also Conservative Party members. I get it. You like to keep most of what you earn, you want government's clammy hands off the affairs of you and your family, and you especially want governments to respect our historical rights, freedoms and cultural traditions as Canadians.

If you are a Conservative Party member, you had now better contact your local CPC electoral district association, your CPC MP and, more importantly, the Conservative Party of Canada itself and inform them that, number one, you are not happy with the results of the last election. Number two, you are displeased with the way CPC handled the firearms issue, as well as other rights and freedoms issues in that election. Number three, they had better jettison the bright girls and boys who so poorly advised them on the firearms issue, as well as others. They helped snatch defeat from the jaws of victory against a failing Liberal Party and their leader who was so ripe for defeat, who should have been defeated, but who was not because of the Conservatives' own misunderstandings and mishandling of that campaign.

Your Conservative Party is at a crossroad. It can now become a pale pink image of Justin's Liberals or it can once again become the Conservative Party that millions of Canadians desired and

worked for after the long-deserved dissolution of the old "progressives" back in the early 2000s.

Are you a Conservative Party member? If you are not, then you have absolutely no say in where that party goes from here. "I might vote for you," doesn't rate with, "I am a member, I am mad as hell and I demand answers," on

the political Richter scale.

Membership has its privileges.

It's up to you. Do you want firearms law reform? Do you want C-71 and the May 2020 OIC defeated? Do you want Canada to regain the status among nations that it held not so long ago? Well, really. It's up to all of us. I think we all know what to do. 

Message du Président

Blair Hagen

Travaillons pour créer un meilleur environnement politique

CHANGEMENTS

Après onze années de leadership inspiré, notre président Sheldon Clare a décidé de quitter ses fonctions.

Sheldon Clare s'est battu pour les droits et les libertés des Canadiens pendant plus de trente ans, et c'est lui qui a fait de l'Association canadienne des armes à feu l'organisation puissante qu'elle est aujourd'hui. Il est personnellement responsable de nos réussites politiques sur la réforme des lois sur les armes à feu, et il a changé à jamais la politique sur les armes à feu du Canada. Sa marque sur notre organisation est indélébile, et nous devons tous lui être reconnaissants pour les immenses efforts qu'il a déployés et les sacrifices qu'il a faits alors qu'il a dirigé la NFA pendant toutes ces années.

ANALYSE ÉLECTORALE

De nombreux membres de la NFA ont récemment communiqué avec moi pour me faire part de leur déception quant aux résultats de la dernière élection fédérale.

Nous avons empêché Justin Trudeau de former le nouveau gouvernement majoritaire qu'il voulait si désespérément, ce qui a peut-être finalement jeté les fondations de la fin de ce gou-

vernement libéral. Cependant, le Parti conservateur, sous Erin O'Toole, n'a pas gagné assez de sièges pour former le gouvernement. Pourquoi est-ce arrivé ? Je crois que vous le savez, mais revoyons ce qui s'est passé.

Justin Trudeau a déclenché les élections plus tôt en 2021, quand il était fort dans les sondages et quand il semblait que les libéraux avaient la meilleure chance de regagner la majorité qu'ils avaient perdue en raison de son incompétence et de la leur, de nombreuses controverses et de la mauvaise gestion de l'économie canadienne. Les conservateurs de M. O'Toole ont commencé la campagne en force et ont gagné du terrain, mais plusieurs choses sont arrivées par la suite, qui les ont empêchés de gagner les sièges requis pour former le gouvernement.

Je dois vous dire que je suis impliqué dans cette absurdité politique depuis très, très longtemps. J'ai vu des gouvernements arriver, et des gouvernements partir. Quand ils arrivent, ils veulent corriger les échecs et les controverses du gouvernement précédent, et ils font cette promesse aux Canadiens. Quand ils partent, c'est qu'ils n'ont plus de raison à



donner aux Canadiens pour continuer à former le gouvernement et corriger leurs erreurs, et il devient évident que l'opposition a un meilleur plan et un ordre du jour clair.

Le gouvernement Trudeau aurait dû tomber le jour du scrutin en 2021.

Ça n'a pas été le cas pour diverses raisons. Si vous êtes membre du Parti conservateur, c'est arrivé pour une grande variété de raisons, et j'en parlerai plus tard. Cependant, pour les membres de la NFA, c'est arrivé pour la raison suivante:

Le projet de loi C-71. Le PCC a commencé la campagne avec un engagement ferme à abolir le projet de loi libéral C-71, qui vise à rétablir en douce un registre des armes à feu. Cette mesure législative n'a toujours pas été pleinement mise en œuvre en raison des coûts élevés et de problèmes logistiques. En mai 2020, les libéraux ont imposé un décret « interdisant » les AR15 et d'autres carabines semi-automatiques pour tenter d'apaiser les électeurs progressistes de gauche, qui sont impressionnés par cette stupidité vide de sens et qui méprisent les droits et la propriété des Canadiens.

Les libéraux pensaient que cette décision leur permettrait d'attirer suffisamment de votes de gauche et woke combinés et que Justin Trudeau regagnerait un gouvernement majoritaire, leur donnant un nouvel élan politique avec un nouvel ordre du jour législatif. L'analyse rétrospective faite par l'équipe de stratégie électorale bien rémunérée de la NFA, qui nous a beaucoup aidés aux élections de 2021, indique que ça n'a pas marché. Le registre des armes à feu du projet de loi C-71 et « l'interdiction des armes d'assaut » n'ont rien changé pour les libéraux.

Voici ce qu'ils ont fait.

À la toute fin de la campagne, les libéraux et leurs copains des médias grand public ont relancé le débat sur les armes à feu afin de nuire à la résurgence du PCC d'Erin O'Toole. Au début de la campagne, Erin O'Toole et le PCC avaient judicieusement décidé de non seulement s'en prendre au registre des armes à feu du projet de loi C-71, mais aussi d'annuler le décret de mai 2020 s'ils formaient le gouvernement en 2021.

À la fin de la campagne, quand les libéraux ont décidé d'utiliser leurs toutes dernières munitions sur le contrôle des armes à feu, le PCC a dû prendre une décision. Maintenir ses politiques et ses messages cohérents sur les armes à feu, ou devenir évasif pour éviter une soi-disant controverse.

Au lieu de maintenir la politique consistant à axer la loi, l'application de la loi et le financement sur l'utilisation criminelle des armes à feu, à la fin de la campagne, le PCC d'Erin O'Toole a fait marche arrière, a tergiversé et a promis de simplement « revoir » le décret de mai 2021.

Ce fut une grave erreur. Le décret libéral de mai 2020 confisquera la propriété de centaines de milliers de Canadiens s'il arrive à sa conclusion inévitable. En affaiblissant sa position sur la protection des droits et de la propriété des Canadiens, le PCC a perdu des centaines de milliers de votes aux mains du nouveau parti. Un parti qui s'était engagé à respecter et à protéger les droits, les libertés et la propriété des Canadiens. Le Parti populaire du Canada de Maxime Bernier. Le PPC.

Je suis certain que les brillants petits jeunes qui conseillent Erin O'Toole pensaient que c'était une façon intelligente de détourner les attaques des libéraux, tout en maintenant le soutien historique des électeurs qui défendent les droits et les libertés. Cela a eu exactement l'effet contraire. Les brillants petits jeunes ont souvent l'effet contraire en politique.

Aujourd'hui, obtenir un diplôme en sciences politiques signifie ne pas savoir changer un pneu, équilibrer un compte bancaire ou même savoir ce que pensent vos voisins qui travaillent de neuf à cinq et qui paient leurs factures. Félicitations aux brillants petits jeunes. Ce que les sondeurs tendancieux et vos petits amis bavards des médias sociaux du centre-ville de Toronto pensent ne représente pas nécessairement un vaste éventail de l'opinion des Canadiens, en particulier les conservateurs.

Est-ce que le PCC va apprendre de cette très importante leçon ? Je l'ignore. Voici ce que vous pouvez faire. Un très grand nombre de membres de la NFA sont aussi membres du Parti conservateur.

Je comprends. Vous voulez garder une plus grande part de ce que vous gagnez, vous voulez que le gouvernement sorte ses sales pattes de vos affaires et de celles de votre famille, et vous voulez tout particulièrement que le gouvernement respecte nos droits, nos libertés et nos traditions culturelles historiques en tant que Canadiens.

Si vous êtes membre du Parti conservateur, vous feriez bien de communiquer avec votre association de circonscription conservatrice locale, votre député conservateur et, plus important encore, le Parti conservateur du Canada pour leur dire que premièrement, vous n'êtes pas content des résultats de la dernière élection. Deuxièmement, vous n'êtes pas content de la façon dont le PCC a traité la question des armes à feu et d'autres enjeux sur les droits et les libertés à cette élection. Troisièmement, qu'ils feraient mieux de se débarrasser des brillants petits jeunes qui les ont si mal conseillés sur la question des armes à feu (et d'autres enjeux) et qui ont aidé à transformer une victoire en défaite face à un Parti libéral affaibli, son chef Justin Trudeau Justin qui était mûr pour la défaite, qui aurait dû être défait, et qui ne l'a pas été parce que les conservateurs n'ont rien compris et ont mal géré cette campagne.

Votre Parti conservateur est à la croisée des chemins. Il peut maintenant devenir une pâle image des libéraux de Trudeau ou il peut redevenir le Parti conservateur que des millions de Canadiens voulaient après la dissolution bien méritée des anciens « progressistes » au début des années 2000.

Est-ce que vous êtes membre du Parti conservateur ? Si vous ne l'êtes pas, vous n'avez absolument rien à dire sur l'orientation du parti. « Je pourrais voter pour vous » ne vaut pas grand-chose face à « Je suis membre, je suis furieux et j'exige des réponses » sur l'échelle de Richter politique.

Être membre a ses privilèges.

À vous de décider. Vous voulez que les lois sur les armes à feu soient réformées ? Vous voulez que le projet de loi C-71 et le décret de mai 2020 soient abolis ? Vous voulez que le Canada regagne le statut qu'il avait parmi les autres pays il n'y a pas si longtemps ? He bien, à vous de décider. Je crois que nous savons tous quoi faire.



Vice-President's Message

Rick Igercich

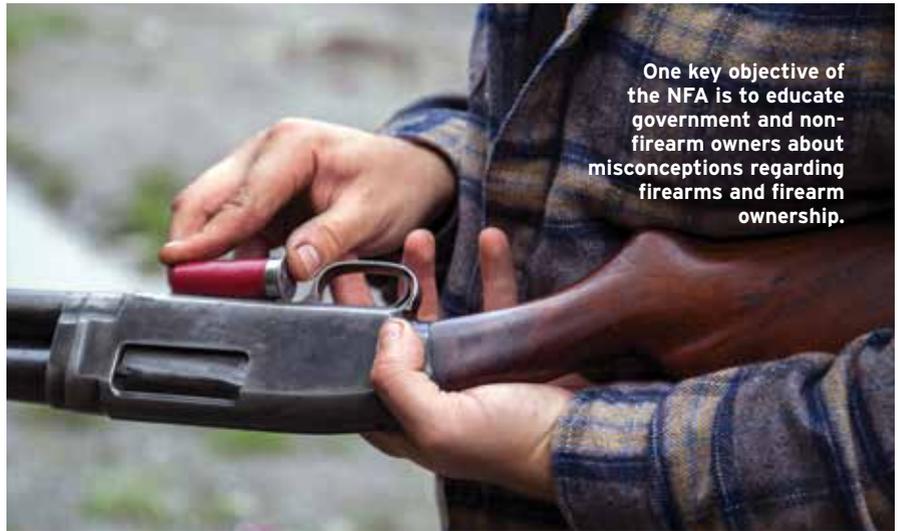
Introduction

My name is Rick Igercich and I have been an NFA member for 12 years. I have served as an Ontario director for the last five and firearms training and education chairman for the past three. I now have the pleasure of taking on the role of interim vice-president.

Firearms have been a part of my life for a very long time, introduced to me by my father, who was an avid hunter, as well as a bullseye pistol and rifle shooter. Firearms safety was taken seriously in our household and was taught to me long before I fired my first shot. At eight years of age, I had my first experience at live fire when my father set up a Weatherby Mark XXII on sandbags with a target 20 yards away. I was hooked for life!

My first rifle was a Lakefield Mossberg single-shot, 22 LR. I fired countless bricks of 22 Shorts before my dad let me shoot 22 Long Rifles. I started hunting when I was 15 and have many great memories of hunts alongside my dad, particularly those which took place in northern Ontario. Competitive shooting came next. I competed in small bore rifle and was on the high school trap shooting team, which was a part of the ATA Youth Program. Over the years, I have continued to be an avid big and small game hunter, and have competed in IPSC, registered trap, 3-gun and long-range rifle. In 2009, I joined the NFA to be an advocate for my rights and freedoms as a gun owner.

These are challenging times for gun owners in Canada. Please know that along with my colleagues on the board of directors, President Blair Hagen and Hardy Staub (British Columbia), Dwayne Gorniak and Jerrold Lundgard (Alberta), Jordan Vandenhoff (Ontario), Chuck Cote and Joe Esteves (Quebec), Robert Bracken



One key objective of the NFA is to educate government and non-firearm owners about misconceptions regarding firearms and firearm ownership.

(Atlantic Canada) and Donald Feltham (Prince Edward Island), the NFA is fighting for the rights and freedoms of its members with renewed determination and commitment. We are more focused than ever.

The NFA already has a strong presence in Ottawa with full-time lobbyist Charles Zach working hard to get our message across to MPs and others. Executive director Jordan Vandenhoff is ensuring that messaging through social media is timely, informative, engaging and has an extensive reach. The board of directors are always looking for opportunities to reach out to members to hear and to be responsive to thoughts and concerns. We host events at gun clubs and try to attend every possible firearms event across Canada.

One key objective of the NFA is to educate government and non-firearm owners about misconceptions regarding firearms and firearm ownership. We will continue to be clear in our message that citizens have a legal right to own a firearm. We will

continue to highlight that individuals use firearms in sport shooting, hunting, self-defense and for providing sustenance for families. Currently, an individual with an expired PAL is subject to a criminal charge, but this isn't right and the NFA is committed to removing non-victim, non-violent, administrative firearm crimes from the Criminal Code.

With the Liberal Party regaining control of the government and the CPC clinging to an indecisive platform, we have a lot of work to do in the days ahead. The infamous Order in Council is only a part of it, as the Liberals will no doubt be rehashing some of the bills that were quashed when parliament ended, with a much broader scope of restrictions and bans.

I'm looking forward to my continued work with the NFA and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their support and generous donations that enable us to continue the fight for the rights and freedoms of firearms owners across Canada. 

Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It

This is a follow up to my July/August 2021 Journal article in which I touched on the restoration of a 1903 Springfield 30-06 rifle.

The mid to late 19th century was a time of innovation in many fields. Communication developments included the telegraph and the telephone. Electric power began turning on the lights, plus providing motors for industry. These new technologies were incredible, but the development of new inventions and innovations in firearms also occurred. The leaders in these innovations were the Mauser brothers, James Paris Lee, B. Tyler Henry, Misters Smith and Wesson, Sam Colt, Christopher Spencer, Arthur Savage, John Marlin and Eliphalet Remington, plus many others whose names are lost to the mists of time. These individuals invented technologies that are in use today.

Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson were inspired firearms innovators. They founded the Smith & Wesson Company in 1852 to develop and market the Volcanic rifle. Smith designed the Volcanic self-contained caseless cartridge. This development led to the idea of a lever-action rifle, after which the pair of inventors renamed their firm The Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. They then sold it to Oliver Winchester, who, of course, turned it into the Winchester Repeating Arms Company.

The guns which Winchester rifles replaced were often flintlocks, a design developed during the 1650s. That flintlock design had replaced the much earlier matchlocks of the 1300s, a mechanism designed to ignite the powder charge of a firearm with a smouldering wick. More sophisticated versions of this design appeared in the early 1500s, in the form of the snap lock, snaphaunce, Miquelet lock and then the dog lock, all leading to the development of the flintlock in the mid-1600s. That flintlock mechanism



An Enfield Long Lee MK1 (top) and an Enfield SMLE MK III.



Counter-clockwise from top left, an Enfield box magazine, Enfield ammunition and stripper clip, Mauser stripper clip and ammunition.

reigned supreme for 200 years until the percussion cap was perfected.

Percussion technology was slow in development and did not immediately displace the flintlock, which remained in common use until the 1860s. The initial

breakthrough was in 1823 when a French arms manufacturer, Casimir Lefauchaux, came up with the concept of the pinfire self-contained cartridge. But this was just the beginning of modern firearms, as Frenchman Louis Nicholas Flobert



LEFT: A Model 1891 Mauser (top) and a classic 1898 Mauser.



BOTTOM: This modern Savage 110 can trace its heritage back to the earliest bolt-actions.

introduced his 6mm Flobert percussion cap with a bullet attached in 1845. The Flobert was superseded in 1857 when Smith & Wesson developed the 22 Short rimfire. The race was now on.

During the US Civil War, innovations flourished. B. Tyler Henry introduced the 44 Henry Flat rimfire, fired in the iconic Henry repeating rifle. More powerful rimfire cartridges soon appeared on the scene, such as the 56-56 Spencer; additionally, handguns were introduced in .38, .41 and .44 calibre rimfires. Then all these innovations were superseded by the newly perfected centerfire ammunition invented by Hiram Berdan and nearly at the same time by the English inventor Edward Boxer, who came up with Boxer primer in the mid-1860s.

This cartridge design has proven to be efficient and easily reloaded, as the drawn brass cases can be used multiple times. It is the firearms standard which exists to this date and is used universally. Yes, there are still rimfires of .22 and .17 calibre; however, they are significantly less powerful than centre-fires and used principally in firearms intended for small game and competitive shooting sports.

The 1870s saw massive strides in innovation with the development of lever rifles by Winchester, Marlin, Ballard and others. Bolt-action development was undertaken by the Mauser brothers and James Paris Lee. The first bolt-action rifle was invented by Nikolas Von Dreyse in 1836; however, this design was refined by the Mauser brothers in 1870 to 1871. Wilhelm and

Paul Mauser were talented firearm designers and their Model 1871 rifle set the stage for many bolt-actions we know today. The second brilliant arms designer was a Scot, James Paris Lee, who moved to the US in 1858 and developed a number of rifle designs.

The emergence of the modern bolt-action rifle begins! This is the dawn of a new age. Lee designs the 1879 Remington Lee Rifle, a completely new innovation in design and function. This is the starting point for all other Lee rifles. It has the Lee-designed action with a detachable five-round box magazine. The US Army did not want to adopt this gun, but the US Navy did see the potential in this design and ordered small batches. The next Lee design is introduced in 1887; this rifle is an eight-shot bolt-action with a single-stack magazine and was introduced into service by the British military in 1888.

An interesting variant of all the magazine-fed rifles are those which use the en bloc clip. These differ from stripper clips in that the entire clip is loaded into the rifle and the cartridges are not stripped from the clip during loading. The en block clip is fully inserted into the magazine of a rifle and only removed after it has expended all the rounds. The system was used by Schmidt Ruben, Mannlicher and Berthier, to name a few. This approach simply adds bulk, in that one loads a magazine into a magazine. Further developments included the Mauser brothers introducing the 1889 bolt-action rifle with a five-shot, single stack,

detachable box magazine that could be loaded with a stripper clip.

The next improvement was the 1891 Mauser with the same action but a superior stripper clip. The British Army then introduced the second Paris Lee design in the form of the Mk I Long Lee with a 10-round staggered box magazine. The Mauser brothers followed up with the Model 1893 with a five-shot internal magazine and a controlled feed system and the Spanish Mauser is born. These rifle actions were sold worldwide in military and sporting configurations. The next step in development is the famous Model 1898, which continues the trend.

Now, the US Army comes of age in the 20th century, but with no domestic designer forwarding a bolt-action variant which meets with the military's approval. This led to the US military purchasing the design from the Mauser brothers and the development of the famous rifle we know as the 1903 Springfield, chambered in the 30-06 cartridge, and manufactured by the Springfield Armory. To compete, Enfield fitted their rifles with a charger bridge so it could now be loaded with a stripper clip. All of these rifles served various militaries well into the 20th century and all of these actions are still available in sporting rifles and have been since the 1890s.

Design features developed by the Mauser brothers and Lee are still evident in a multitude of rifles in the 21st century, with their innovations and technical features appearing in fine hunting and sporting firearms. The strength and reliability of the Enfield and Mauser mechanisms is still valued in what we consider the modern age of the firearm. The stripper clip and the box magazine attest to the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

These innovators and their work are all part of our firearms heritage. 

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Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Can't Hurt, May Help

It's clear from our recent election that most Canadians know very little about guns, even less about criminology, and vanishingly little about our convoluted gun laws. But they often don't like guns or are completely indifferent to guns, so more regulations and laws are seen as good. Obviously, more laws will help, or could help, or sound like they might help with violent crime, so it's all gain, no loss, so it can't hurt. An unfortunate consequence of this is that it makes them sitting ducks for Trudeau's mastery of talking big while doing little, as well as his expertise at ignoring real problems while he focuses on where the problems aren't.

Another problem with this approach to governance is something economists call "opportunity costs." These are the foregone benefits which would have happened if our limited resources had been spent elsewhere. Only Trudeau and his finance ministers believe that Canada has unlimited money/resources and debt can always be kicked down the road with ever larger loans and Bank of Canada printing presses.

THE TARGET

The first problem with our current firearms law is that it targets inanimate objects (firearms). This being the priority of the Liberal Party who want to ban all firearms for purely ideological reasons. Unfortunately, if our target is violent crime rather than ideological virtue signaling, it means we are trying to control willful criminal behaviour by going after the means instead of the actual criminal. On average, about 201 registered guns are used per year in homicides (0.0028 per cent of those registered). The anti-gunners sometimes use America's "horrible" homicide rate as proof that being the country with the most guns places violence in the country's very DNA. The reality of course is that the US homicide rate is half the world average and there are some 90 countries with fewer guns and higher homicide rates.

The second problem with targeting



By directing money and resources to where the problem isn't, the government is reducing the capabilities of the RCMP to investigate serious criminal matters.

inanimate objects is that it inflicts a confusing multitude of micro-regulations on the law-abiding firearm owner who is only rarely involved in crime (on average, about 13 firearm owners are accused of homicide every year, about 0.00059 per cent of licensed). Accordingly, our efforts focused on inanimate objects and the law-abiding are two steps removed from actual criminal behaviour. Considering the tiny percentages of registered guns and licensed owners involved in crime, even an impossible 100 per cent anti-violence success rate from our anti-gun policies yields almost zero crime-fighting benefits.

The firearms control scheme mandated in the Firearms Act has now cost well over \$2 billion (direct cost of the program alone) and the "assault rifle" ban (semi-automatic hunting and target rifles) is set to add an additional billion in costs.

WHERE THE MONEY WASN'T

If money were limitless and police

and court resources infinite, directing them to where the violent crime isn't wouldn't be much of a problem. Unfortunately, this is not the case. If we ignore other resource allocation issues, like drinking water on reserves, Canada's deteriorating military capabilities and a host of other crying needs and restrict our examination to the RCMP, what do we find?

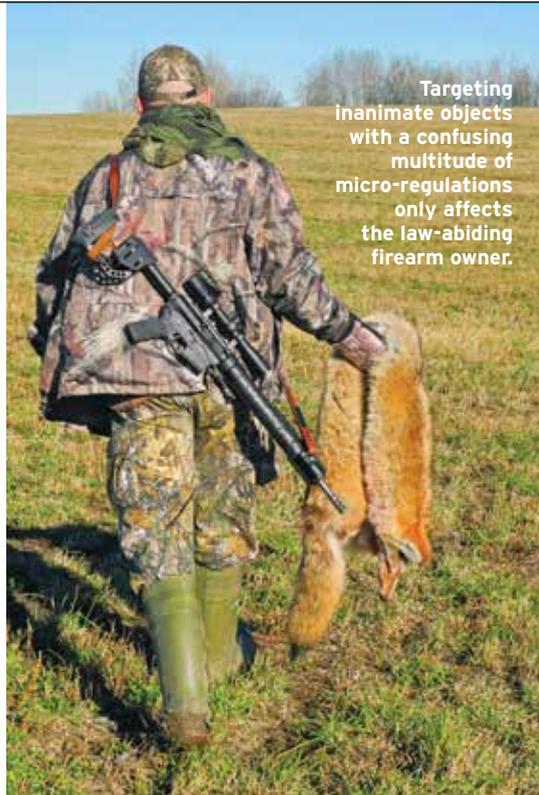
The list of problems is so long, one is at a loss as to where to start and when to finish. The RCMP has two main taskings. Most officers are tasked with community policing on a contract basis. The rest deal with federal enforcement, tackling complex issues such as drug interdiction, organized crime, white collar crime, etc. If we look at operational capacity, we find fundamental problems going back decades. If we look back to 2006, we find the RCMP had already acquired the habit of responding to chronic under-resourcing by shifting officers from federal enforcement to community policing. In 2006, the RCMP federal division was short some 600 officers, 25 per cent be-

low establishment. Clearance rates on drug enforcements had fallen from 80 per cent (1995) to 61 per cent (2004). Other federal investigation clearance rates (immigration fraud, stock market scams, smuggling) had fallen from 80 per cent (1990s) to 49 per cent (2004).

This institutional response to lack of personnel and resources works as crisis management. As a long-term response, its avoidance of the root cause comes at a price. It is particularly damaging when people are pulled off complex cases or fail to acquire the necessary levels of experience or master complex skills simply because they aren't there long enough. The RCMP has also had to deal with increased workloads due to technology and legal changes. One deputy commissioner calculated that over 15 years, the increased legal paperwork had doubled the cost of each policing position. The number of procedural steps in a simple drug-trafficking investigation has risen seven-fold since the mid-1970s.

In 2017, Deputy Commissioner Michaud complained about the RCMP's declining ability to handle complex, often international challenges, like outlaw bikers, criminal hackers, fentanyl smugglers and money launderers. Under Trudeau, the number of gang homicides has doubled. He describes how the century-old tradition of promoting long-serving generalists from the ranks was failing to produce highly skilled specialists with expertise that generalists simply do not have. Between 2010 and 2017, the size of the federal policing section dropped by 250 members. One indicator of how serious this failure of capability is can be found in the long list of problematic investigations. For example, the Air India bombing, the damaging allegations surrounding Maher Arar's deportation to Syria, the fruitless investigation of Brian Mulroney and the Airbus contracts, as well as the Sponsorship scandal.

Another problem is the emergence of new threats, such as international political terrorism. Between 2000 and 2015, the cost of counterterrorism rose from \$10 million to \$57 million, with all the additional funds coming from "reallocation." In 2014, extremists of political Islam, inspired by the Islamic



Targeting inanimate objects with a confusing multitude of micro-regulations only affects the law-abiding firearm owner.

State's new "caliphate," killed two Canadian soldiers and one attacked Parliament itself. In response, more than 600 RCMP were moved off organized crime and into counterterrorism. More than 300 investigations, mostly into organized crime, were side-tracked and more than \$100 million in funding had to be re-directed to national security tasks. This sort of disruption, inevitable in an undermanned, underfunded force, reduces efficiency as people try to learn complex skills and acquire knowledge while they learn on the often-temporary job. Loss of institutional efficiency, as well as expertise and memory resulting in the loss of capability, are the perfectly predictable outcomes. This is the inevitable result of using crisis management as a strategic plan for force development.

Equipment is another problem area where the RCMP struggles to make do. Nine years after four officers were killed in Mayerthorpe, more were killed in Moncton. In both cases, the investigation noted the RCMP's institutional and financial inability to properly equip its people with patrol carbines. Nine years was simply not long enough to generate the managerial willpower or resources to properly equip the force or properly train the force in that equipment. These problems continue to fester. In 2018, it was reported that the average wait for results from RCMP

forensic labs had quadrupled to 238 days, seriously impacting investigations and trials.

Another problem complicating all the above is the evolving complexity of crime. For example, in 2019, despite a level of money laundering and real estate market manipulations that were national scandals, it was revealed there were no Mounties dedicated to money laundering in BC. Another example is cybercrime. In 2016, nearly 24,000 cases were reported, up 58 per cent over 2014. Nearly 70 per cent of RCMP and CSIS intercepts are now encrypted as organized criminal groups become more sophisticated.

The RCMP budget for 2020/2021 is \$3.5 billion. Compare this to the CBC funding of \$1.2 billion and the difference in scope and tasking. Some \$1.5 billion will go to community policing, where there are widespread complaints of underfunding, and only \$900 million to federal policing. This amount is close to the projected cost of the May 1 OIC gun grab in restitution alone.

Perhaps opportunity costs should be made part of our political debates, ideally with a political leader who doesn't think "me too" is a winning argument. 🗡️

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THE PERFECT REPEATER

Winchester's Model 12 turns 110

BY JEFF HELSDON





This 16-gauge Model 12 belonged to the author's grandfather, but it'll still take game.

My first gun was a Winchester Model 12, 16 gauge, that used to belong to my grandfather. As a teenager, I didn't know a lot about guns and didn't realize it was a classic. All that mattered was that it was grandfather's and, growing up in a non-hunting household, it was the only gun I had. As my knowledge of guns increased, I came to appreciate the Model 12 and learned why it was so popular.

This year marks the 110th anniversary of Winchester's most iconic shotgun. It's easy to pick out a Model 12 on a gun rack, with most having a distinctive forend with ring-like grooving, a single action bar and classic looks. While wooden-stocked pumps aren't in high demand now, the Model 12 was once reputed as the best pump shotgun on the market.

EARLY HISTORY

I initially thought the Model 12 was another one of John Browning's ingenious designs, but I have learned this is not the case. In the late 1800s, a lot of change and development was occurring in the gun market. To this

time, most shotguns were double barrels, but Winchester charged Browning with designing a repeating shotgun. Wanting to capitalize on their reputation for lever-actions, they insisted on a lever gun. The result was the Model 1887 lever-action shotgun.

When the 1887 didn't take off, Browning, who initially thought the solution was a pump gun, then came out with the Model 1893. One of the changes in the last decade of the 1800s was guns were quickly switching to smokeless powder. With the 1893 designed for black powder, it underwent a transformation and became the Model 1897. This hammer gun stuck around for 60 years and more than a million were made.

The most significant issue shooters had with the Model 1897 was the external hammer. Winchester engineer Thomas Crossley Johnson then redesigned Winchester's pump to an internal hammer gun that was labeled the Model 1912. A cross-bolt safety in front of the trigger guard replaced the hammer safety of the Model 1897. I, and many other shooters, firmly believe this is where the safety should

be since it's a natural action to bring the finger back to pull the trigger after releasing the safety.

Additionally, the carrier on the bottom of the receiver is under spring tension. While no one thought differently in the day, loading a Model 12 is different than putting shells in the magazine of a shotgun without the carrier under tension.

Most people don't realize that the first Model 1912s to roll off the line were 20-gauge guns. It wasn't available in 12 and 16 gauge until a year later. The Model 42, which was essentially a downsized .410 Bore Model 12, was introduced in 1933. A year later, a 28-gauge followed. In 1919, there was a slight name change to Model 12, with the '19' being dropped.

FEATURES

The Model 12 receiver was machined from one piece of steel, making the gun strong – almost invincible. It also had machined internal metal parts which were hand fitted, a walnut stock and polished blued receiver and barrel. The Model 12 barrel and magazine detached from the receiver, making

multiple barrels a more expensive proposition, as the barrel and receiver were one unit.

The Model 12 didn't have a disconnect in its inner workings though. This meant if the trigger was squeezed and held, the gun would fire each time a new shell was worked into the chamber. Called a slam fire, this feature allowed quicker firing of the gun.

Winchester's marketing team, who had named the Model 94 the "Gun that won the west," then dubbed the Model 12 the "Perfect Repeater." Whether it was the marketing or the functionality of the gun, the Model 12 quickly became the go-to pump-action gun for hunters and competitive shooters across North America. It was more expensive than a Remington, Ithaca or Stevens, but people were willing to pay the price.

VARIATIONS

Over the years, the Model 12 was made in 11 different grades: field, trap, skeet, pigeon, riot, trench, black diamond trap, super field grade, tournament, featherweight and heavy duck grades. The latter was manufactured to chamber three-inch shells and was available with or without a rib. Most other Model 12s were chambered for 2¾-inch shells.

On the competitive side, the trap model generally had nicer wood and either a vented or solid rib. When I started trap shooting in the late 1980s, it was common to see several Model 12s on the rack at a competition. Now it's rare.

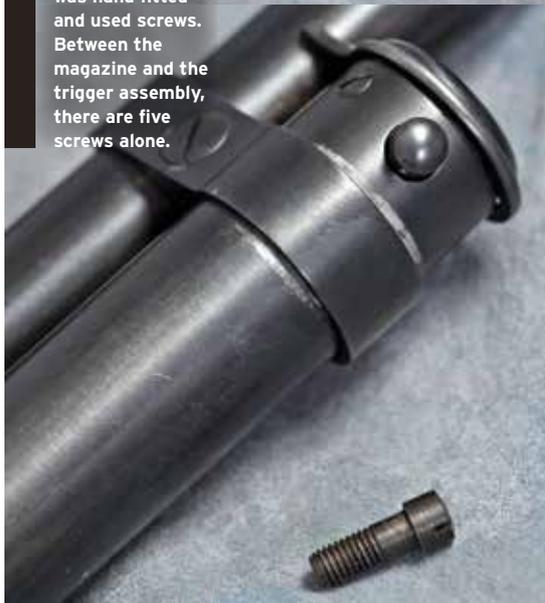
A few anomalies exist in those early guns which prospective purchasers of a used Model 12 should be aware. Early 20 gauges exist with 2½-inch chambers and there are 16 gauges with 2-9/16-inch chambers. These guns will take 2¾-inch shells but should not be fired with longer shells as this could result in excessive pressure which could harm the gun and shooter.

The Model 12 was also popular for military and police service. It was issued to several units of the American military in both World Wars. Military models had short barrels, steel heat shrouds with rows of holes to allow heat to escape and a bayonet adaptor.

Most Model 12s had fixed chokes, but some came with either a Cutt's Compensator or a polychoke, allow-



ABOVE AND BELOW: While modern guns are stamped and put together with pins, the Model 12 was hand fitted and used screws. Between the magazine and the trigger assembly, there are five screws alone.



because there was a Y in the serial number. The most noticeable difference is all had jeweled bolts. A custom production gun, they had select-grade walnut and were hand checkered. These Y models were offered in trap, skeet, super pigeon and field models. They ceased production in 1980, thus bringing to a halt one of Winchester's most revered shotguns.

A limited run of Model 12s was done by Japan's Miroku (Browning) from 1993 on and off until 2006. These guns were 20 and

28 gauges.

ing the barrel restriction to be varied. These devices were even added at the factory on some guns.

ENDING PRODUCTION

Rising machining and labour costs were the downfall of the Model 12. Although it was more expensive than a Remington 870, Remington made more money on the 870 than Winchester did on a Model 12. The changing desires of shooters also contributed to the downfall of the Model 12.

When Winchester revamped its lineup in 1964, the Model 12 was no longer a production gun. It was replaced by the Model 1200, which had lower manufacturing costs but was not of the same quality.

After 1964, the Model 12 was still produced on a limited basis. These guns became known as the Y models

28 gauges.

Today, Winchester collectors still seek Model 12s, with the pre-1964 guns being the most sought after. Naturally, models with limited production are worth more than the common field guns.

More than two million Model 12s were built in various configurations over a run that spanned more than nine decades from the first model until the end of the Miroku guns. The majority were produced during the years between 1912 and 1963.

FAMOUS MODEL 12S

Although the Model 12s were classics, they didn't have the same celebrity status as Winchester's rifles. Famed shooter Annie Oakley didn't shoot a Model 12, and from what I could find neither did Theodore

Roosevelt. Both were known for their Winchester rifles though.

Herb Parsons, who was Winchester's showman shooter for three decades, was a Model 12 fan. He used it to earn several honours in trap and skeet. One of his signature feats was throwing seven clay targets in the air and then breaking all seven individually with his Model 12.

Sam Vance, an Olympic trap shooter and inductee into the ATA Trap Shooting Hall of Fame, shot double guns in competition, but used a Model 12 hunting. His nephew, outdoor writer John Vance, still has that gun.

JUST SHOOT IT

Each year, I ensure my grandfather's Model 12 gets out hunting several times. Across North America, many other hunters are in the same situation, having inherited a Model 12 from their forebearers. Competitive shooters are still using Model 12s, putting total shells through their guns into six figures. These guns are still solid and an opportunity to shoot a classic for years into the future. If you own a Model 12, don't let it be a safe queen, get it out shooting. 🎯



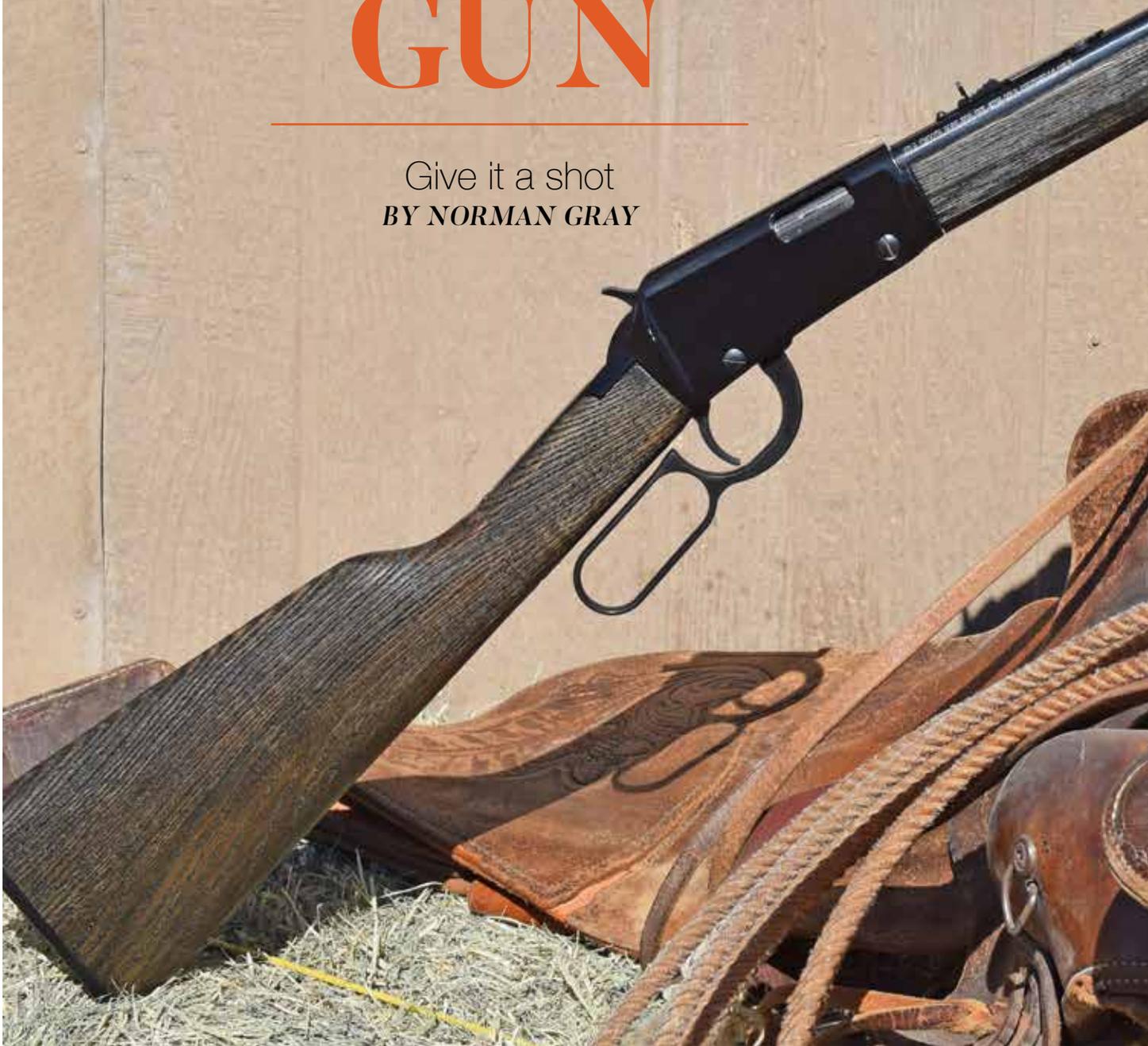
One way to tell a Y model from a pre-'64 Model 12 is the jeweled bolt and shell carrier on the Y.



Bill Scrivener has put over 250,000 shells through his Model 12 trap. He bought it used and figures it had up to 150,000 through it then.

THE HENRY GARDEN GUN

Give it a shot
BY NORMAN GRAY





Many experienced firearms enthusiasts know Benjamin Tyler Henry was the creator of the first successful lever-action rifle way back in 1860. They may not know that 136 years later, in Brooklyn, NY, Louis Imperato and his son Anthony secured the trademark to the Henry name. The first model they produced was the Henry H001 Classic lever action in 22 Long Rifle. And for the record, there is no current affiliation or lineage to Benjamin Tyler Henry or his New Haven Arms Company.

A GARDEN GUN?

Now, what if I told you it's possible to shoot a 22 LR shotshell cartridge from a rifle? I think you would tell me this is not new; it's been done for years. The 22 LR shotshell cartridge is indeed not a new idea. But what if I told you there was a modern smooth-bore long gun purpose-built only to shoot 22 LR shotshell cartridges? Your next question may be, "Why on Earth would I want one?" After reading this article, you may realize the Garden Gun would have made keeping your property pest-free much more enjoyable.

The concept of firing pellet-sized projectiles from a firearm is over 400 years old. Even firing shot from a smoothbore rifle isn't a new idea. These ideas have been revisited many times throughout history, using the modern engineering and technology of the times. The Germans were credited with the first muzzleloading shotgun-type firearm, the blunderbuss, invented in the 1600s. Chiappa Firearms of Italy improved the 9mm Flobert Smoothbore Garden Gun developed by Louis Nicolas Auguste Flobert. As I've said many times, the firearm can't be reinvented, only improved.

In a modern firearm, rifling stabilizes the bullet; but when using 22 LR shotshell cartridges, the rifling negatively affects the shotshell's pattern and range. This answers part of the question asked earlier. The Henry Garden Gun offers the shooter an effective way to control pests that fly, walk or slither via its smooth-bore barrel, so range and pattern are improved. This makes it practical for ▶

all close-in small game tasks. It can be used effectively inside a barn or structure with little to no collateral damage or ricochets, especially where livestock may be present.

GARDEN GUN FEATURES

The Henry Garden Gun is a beautiful piece, beginning with its 18.5-inch rich blued steel barrel and receiver, then complemented by dark black ash furniture with a rough grain, non-slip texture. The front blade-sight is covered with a durable steel hood, while the rear U notch sight is adjustable for elevation via a step-type elevator. The magazine is a familiar western-style tubular feed with a 15-round capacity. Unlock the spring tube, pull outward, load 15 rounds in the cut-out and push the spring tube back in and lock. Empty shotgun cases are ejected from the right side of the receiver via the ejection port and thrown well clear.

If you've been a firearm enthusiast for many years, as I have, you know the value of different types of firearms. No one gun can do every job effectively. In this case, I'm working with what amounts to a small-calibre shotgun. For some pests, a specialized, purpose-built Garden Gun will serve our needs better than an overly powered shotgun.

GARDEN GUN AMMUNITION

The most common 22 LR shotshells are those manufactured by CCI. These shotshells are filled with #12 shot in a plastic capsule, with a velocity of about 1,000 feet per second. As part of my testing, I tried them in a Ruger 10/22, but they didn't have enough energy to cycle the semi-auto action. And one of the plastic capsules even broke on me while manually cycling the cartridges through the Ruger. However, I experienced no feeding issues or broken capsules while shooting them through the Garden Gun. Henry obviously did their homework to make their gun function as flawless as possible.

THE SHOOTING EXPERIENCE

Shooting the Garden Gun is similar to shooting an air rifle in that it has a low report and almost no recoil. It would make an excellent first rifle for young shooters or a trainer for those who may be sensitive to noise and recoil. While it will load, chamber and



RIGHT: The rifle feeds and chambers CCI 22 LR shotshells flawlessly.



LEFT: The barrel inscription indicates this rifle is for shotshells only.

HENRY QUALITY

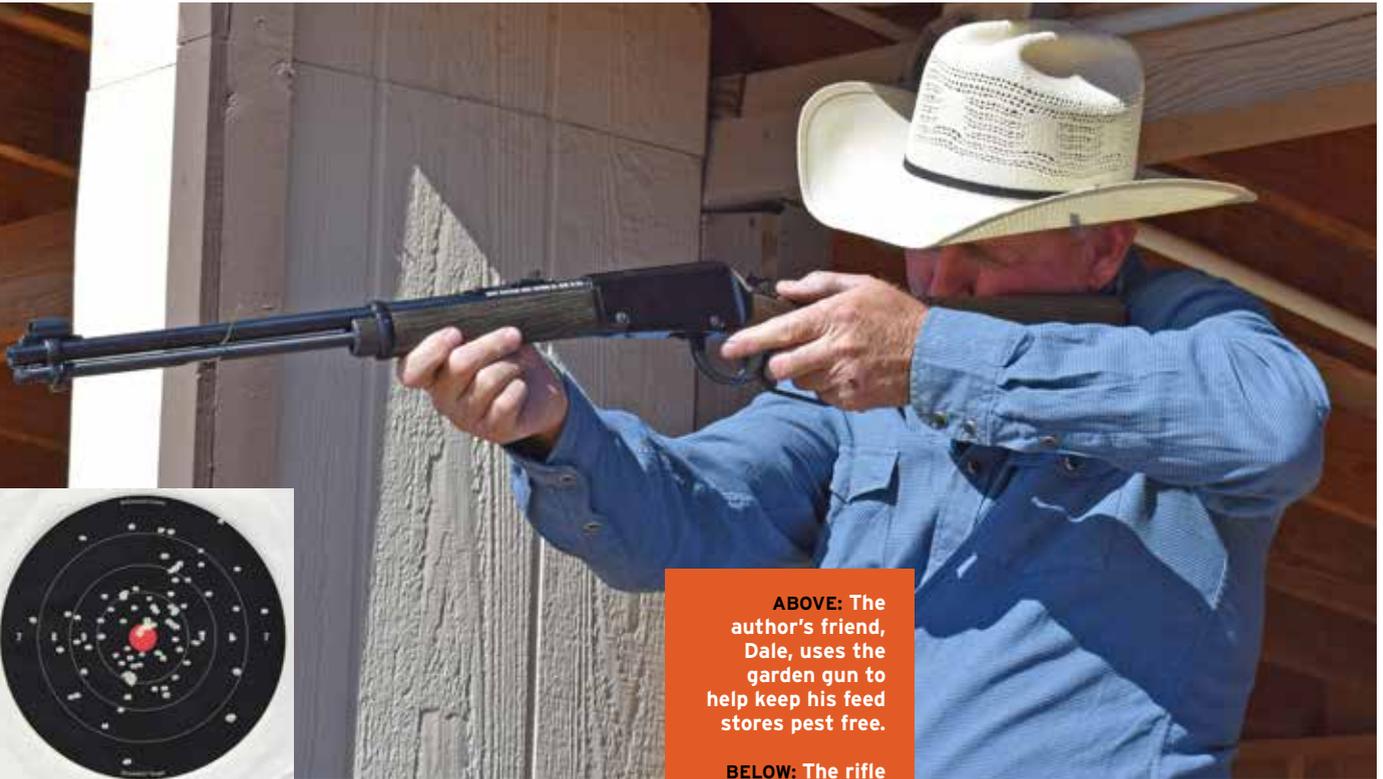
I've had the opportunity to handle and shoot a lot of Henry firearms over

the years and have found a consistent smoothness in their operation to be a trademark of the company. Most lever guns need a break-in period to reach the performance level out-of-the-box Henrys deliver. Their attention to detail is unmistakably present, with the fit and finish I've come to expect from a Henry. This rifle is fun to shoot, easy to load and will do the job flawlessly.

I've had the opportunity to meet and speak with Anthony Imperato on occasion. He tells me he has dedicated his life to manufacturing fine firearms. The Henry Garden Gun is just one of many firearms his company has available, and you can see the pride and attention to detail that goes into every gun. He stands behind them all, and his message to the consumer is simple, "Henry owners have my personal guarantee to make certain they are 100 per cent satisfied with their purchase of our rifles. If you are going to spend your money on a Henry, I can assure you that we will do whatever it takes to make sure you are happy that you bought a Henry."

fire a standard 22 LR cartridge, the bullet won't stabilize and will tumble end over end after leaving the barrel, printing a telltale profile of a sideways bullet in a paper target. For this reason, Henry has printed a warning notice in upper case, white-filled letters on the right side of the rifle barrel that reads, "22 LR SMOOTHBORE FOR USE WITH 22 LR SHOTSHELLS ONLY."

As with a conventional shotgun, it's essential to pattern a gun to see how effective it will be at different ranges with a particular manufacturer's shotgun shell. This same process is used in patterning the Garden Gun. For my testing, I used 20 feet (six metres) as a base distance to shoot a pattern at eight-inch (20-centimetre) Birchwood Casey Shoot-N-C targets. This allows us to see how effective a pattern will be at a certain distance and helps determine the maximum range to attain a clean kill on pests. This process needs to be repeated over varying distances to determine the effective range of each gun/ammunition combination.

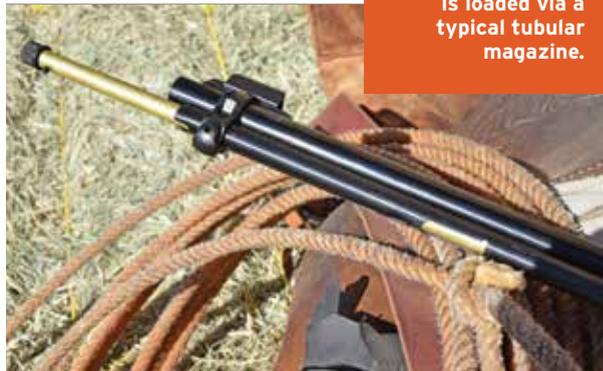


ABOVE: The author's friend, Dale, uses the garden gun to help keep his feed stores pest free.

BELOW: The rifle is loaded via a typical tubular magazine.



TOP AND BOTTOM: At seven yards (top), the Garden Gun produced a tight pattern, but it thinned out at 10 yards (bottom).



HENRY GARDEN GUN

MODEL #: H001GG
BARREL LENGTH: 18.5 inches/47 centimetres
BARREL TYPE: Round blued steel
CALIBRE: .22 LR shotshell only
CAPACITY: 15 rounds
ACTION TYPE: Lever action
RATE OF TWIST: N/A (smoothbore, no rifling)
OVERALL LENGTH: 36.5 inches/92.71 centimetres
WEIGHT: 5.25 pounds/ 2.38 kilograms
RECEIVER FINISH: Black
REAR SIGHT: Fully adjustable
FRONT SIGHT: Covered blade
SCOPEABILITY: 3/8-inch grooved receiver
SCOPE MOUNT TYPE: Ringmounts for 3/8-inch groove
STOCK MATERIAL: Black ash
LENGTH OF PULL: 14 inches/35.56 centimetres
SAFETY: 1/4 cock
BEST USES: Target/hunting/small game
MSRP: \$552.12
HENRY USA: 107 W. Coleman Street, Rice Lake, WI 54868
TELEPHONE: 866-200-2354
FAX: 201-858-4435

PARTING SHOT

The Henry Garden Gun is a niche gun designed to rid yards and outbuildings of tiny pests such as mice, rats, snakes and birds. Distance to your target is essential with the Garden Gun, so discover yours and its limitations. I achieved 36 hits on a 2.5-inch/6.3-centimetre circle at seven yards (6.4 metres). At 10 yards (9.1 metres), I only achieved five hits within that same circle. My experience is that seven yards appears to be the optimal range for small targets. I believe larger animals such as rabbits and squirrels could be taken within that seven-yard range with a

well-placed shot. The shot's sound is that of a well-pumped air rifle. Depending on your proximity to a populated area, you could eradicate a pest or two without drawing much attention. I must admit, I had fun searching for targets of opportunity on my friend Dale and Shondel's horse ranch; for now, I know it's pest free. 🍷

CONTRIBUTORS

HENRY USA: www.henryusa.com/henry-rifles-and-shotguns/
CCI AMMUNITION: www.cci-ammunition.com/
BIRCHWOOD CASEY: www.birchwoodcasey.com/



A SERIOUS THUMPER

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER

Big Horn Armory's Model 89 in 500 S&W

“Keep your mind open, along with your eyes and ears, and you might learn something.” That was what I heard Dad say more than once. I took that advice as I worked on this article and learned about lever actions, .50 calibre thumper rounds and hunting bears over bait.

Let's start this story at the end. Through their Canadian importer (Stag Outdoors Sales www.stagoutdoorsales.com), the folks at Big Horn Armory let me use a Model 89 lever action rifle chambered for the 500 Smith & Wesson cartridge. This beautiful gun accompanied me on a hunt, where I used it to kill a tremendous black bear at close range from a tree stand this spring. That bear, taken on Tate Island, Reindeer Lake, Sask., has provided some excellent braised shanks, crispy schnitzel and tiers of tasty smoked sausages. And it's a great story.

BEGIN AT THE END

“Oh, that's a good one,” said Randy

Kozak one evening after dinner as he flipped through the trail cam photos of a decent black bear. At that time of year, sunrise is at 3:56 AM. “I'll take you in at 3:30,” Randy said.

“Breakfast will be ready to go at 3 o'clock,” was my reply.

At 3:25 the following day, we loaded the Big Horn Armory Model 89 into the boat, along with my backpack, some food and water, enough for an all-day sit. At 3:49 AM, I was arranging my gear on a double-wide tree stand, getting comfortable for an extended sit. With the smoking sticks lit, Randy wished me luck and, a few minutes later, the sound of the outboard drifted into waves lapping 50 yards from my stand. The gentle breeze blew the smoke directly out to the lake.

I spotted a bear in the woods, but my binocular helped me see it was a raven. I continued to check the woods and spotted another raven. This time it raised its head to the stream of smoke from the sticks

and I noticed it had thick black fur and four legs. The crosshairs of my Leupold scope found the crease between the front legs. I admired the shot and the speed at which the bear hit the ground. The authority of a 300-grain Hornady FTX hammered home. While I imagined my buddy slapping me on the back for making a great shot, the bear got up and walked away. I sent another round after it. Beginner's mistake for a 20-year hunter. Now I wait and wait.

While I waited, I used my SpotX to text Randy via satellite. “6:25 AM shot bear. Wandered off. Will track at 6:55. Over.” At 7:05, I added, “Bear found 20 yards from the bait.”

It wasn't long before I could hear the hum of the outboard and then footsteps and chatter. Success.

FUN TOWN, GUN TOWN

Greg Buchel is the president of Big Horn Armory, Inc., located in Cody, Wyoming. Cody is home to the Cody Firearms Museum, which houses >

the Winchester collection. Cody is a fun town if you're a gun aficionado. Three other gun manufacturers call this almost 10,000-person place home. Buchel took some time from manufacturing this beautiful and functional line of firearms to chat with me.

Buchel said, "We designed our lever action specifically for the 500 Smith & Wesson cartridge, basing it off a Model 86 Winchester action. We figured, let's make this work because it's just too good of a cartridge not to do it. In the handgun, you get 2,400 foot-pounds of energy. That same cartridge in the lever gun produces 4,000 foot-pounds."

It's worth noting that Wikipedia says the 500 Smith & Wesson cartridge develops energy equivalent to a bowling ball traveling at 70 miles per hour (112 kilometres an hour). A .50 calibre gun is half an inch in diameter, which leaves a massive hole in targets and game. Big Horn calls this model the Spike Driver, and this round qualifies as a thumper in my book.

"We looked at the Model 86 internals and decided this is probably going to be a complicated gun to manufacture, so, we converted it to Model 92 internals, which is somewhat simpler to manufacture, but it still has the strength in the 86 action with the dual locking bolts. We spent a year-and-a-half developing that base receiver design and finally got stuff to work. We just had to go and build the thing," said Buchel.

That was about 2007. The Big Horn Armory company was formed in 2008.

LIFE'S TOO SHORT FOR UGLY GUNS

Buchel said, "Why not make the gun pretty so that everybody who sees the gun loves it? When we talk about the wood, we could have put standard straight grain stuff that looks like pine on there and saved a couple of hundred dollars, but why? It didn't

make sense to us. So, we decided to go and build it with premium wood. We wanted to make a lever gun that was high quality. And we wanted to use modern materials and the best wood we could put on there at a reasonable price. I think we succeeded. Sure, some guys will say, "Oh, that wood is too good to take to the field," but those minor scratches add character, I think."

The moment you take the Spike

Driver out of the box, you note the heft of this gun, the feel of the wood, the precision of the machining and the fit and finish. It is a shooter too, 1.5-inch groups at 50 metres are perfect for black bears and stalking close to other big game.

SIGHTING OPTIONS

This model came with Skinner sights. These are durable, functional and they feel period perfect. Because I



ABOVE: A Saskatchewan black bear hunt was part of the author's compensation for cooking for guests at Tate Island Lodge.



RIGHT: The Skinner sights provide the perfect backup to an optic or can be the primary sighting gear for the more traditionally minded.



The opportunity to test this gun provided the author with plenty of fun.

BOTTOM: Hornady loads two rounds for the 500 S&W, the 300-grain FTX and the 500-grain XTP.

used the gun to hunt bears, I wanted an optic better suited to my aging eyes and low light of early morning and late evening. The Leupold Scout scope in 1-4X is a perfect option for this rifle and purpose, and it performed flawlessly. The hunt was successful on the first squeeze of the trigger. The optional quick-release mount worked perfectly and gives shooters a fast removal option if they want to go with open sights.

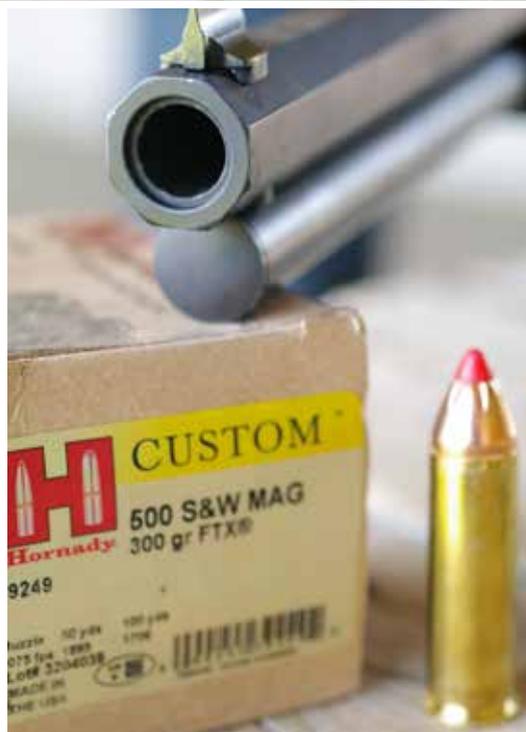
CRISP TRIGGER & SAFETY

"We tune our triggers to between four and five pounds. We want a good, crisp release, but we didn't want to make the trigger so light that you could touch this thing off before being ready. It's still a potent gun. So, putting a two-pound trigger on it we thought was probably not a good thing for hunting," said Buchel.

The fact that Big Horn has chosen to manufacture the gun with the same safety as the original Winchester is interesting. There are no additional cross-bolt safeties, tabs or other devices to interfere, just the old-school cocked and ready to roll, or half-cocked safe position, or the unsafe (if the chamber is loaded) hammer down position.

PLENTY OF OPTIONS

The standard Model 89 comes well



equipped, but some lovely options are available to add to your gun if you like. You can upgrade the wood to fancy walnut or swap it out for laminate wood. Octagonal barrels are an option, and the gun I tested was the standard length (18 inches) with the full octagonal barrel. Firearms can be ordered with longer or shorter barrels.

The gun as tested was 37 inches

overall and weighed in, before scope mounts, at seven pounds and 10 ounces (3.5 kilograms).

PRIDE IN PROCESS & OUTCOME

Buchel is proud of the workers he has recruited from local gun manufacturers. He and his team have assembled a crew of folks that know guns intimately and have the skill to make them to tight tolerances, with perfect fit and finish. Big Horn epoxy beds all their stocks. And they spend the extra time to do the little things that are important in terms of overall function and longevity. Hold the gun, shoot the gun, hunt with the gun and you will see.

I appreciate the opportunity to test and use this beautiful firearm. The experience was enormous fun, with big holes and big rewards. This is the kind of gun one would buy as a family heirloom. You can check out the pricing and more order information at www.bighornarmory.com. Pricing for the Model 89 starts at \$2,499 US. Your Canadian gun dealer can help you get the options you want. 🍷



AN OVERLOOKED OPTION

The non-restricted Benelli MR1

BY AL VOTH

Since the day the Order in Council which prohibited the AR-15 and many other common sporting rifles dropped, there's been a renewed interest in rifles which can fill the resulting gap. So far, variations of the AR-180 design have risen to the top in replacement popularity. Bullpup designs like the Tavor are also common alternatives. A lesser-known option is Benelli's MR1, a magazine-fed semi-auto chambered for the 223 Remington cartridge, with some nice features to offer the Canadian shooter, besides being non-restricted.

The MR1 first appeared on the Canadian market about a dozen years ago and never seems to have caught on in popularity. Call me a pessimist, but I'm thinking if it was popular the Liberals would likely add it to the prohibited list. At the moment, that limited popularity makes it one of the better options if you want to fly under the gun-banner's radar.

VITAL STATISTICS

Since it wears the Benelli name, the MR1 is, of course, loaded with Italian heritage. Italian firearms aren't anything new, some of the finest guns made originate from the land which gave us spaghetti. The US Marine's combat shotgun for more than a decade has been the semi-auto Benelli M4 (military name: M1014). Its reputation has been built on their ultra-reliable ARGO (auto regulating gas operated) system. That same gas system is used in the MR1, where it seems to work just as well.

But before getting too deep into the operating system, here are the rifle's vital statistics. These are my measurements, not factory numbers: weight with no scope and empty magazine – eight pounds, two ounces; overall length – 41.5 inches; barrel length – 20.12 inches; length of pull – 14 inches; trigger pull – 5.5 pounds; rifling – six grooves with a one-in-nine-inch right-hand twist. I also checked the barrel's

interior with a bore scope and found a beautifully finished barrel with no tool marks and a cleanly cut chamber, throat and crown.

The rifle ships with a five-shot magazine patterned after the universal AR-15 design, which means most such magazines should fit. I tried three different ones, all with metal bodies, and all worked fine. I've been told that P-Mags won't work because of ribs in the body of that design, but I can't confirm this. Of note, the excellent RRA magazines work just fine. These magazines drop free easily, but the rifle design is such that you won't be dropping magazines with your trigger hand unless you completely break the firing grip. Instead, the rifle seems designed to drop magazines with the thumb of the non-firing hand, while simultaneously catching them. This release is ambidextrous, as is the bolt hold-open latch. Neither latch is as ergonomically friendly as the AR design.

The safety is a cross-bolt type, located just in front of the trigger guard, the same as on many of the Benelli shotguns. It's also important to note the lack of a muzzle device, or even a threaded muzzle.

The MR1 comes with a competent set of iron sights that are best labelled as back-up sights. This is reinforced by the presence of an optical sight

mounting rail along the top of the receiver. Considering I needed to do some accuracy testing with the rifle and, befitting its non-restricted status, wanted to take it hunting, I didn't spend much time with the iron sights, but moved straight to mounting a scope. As is, the MR1 is perfectly suited for a short, low magnification, red dot sight that fits between the iron sights. However, I opted for some magnification and mounted an older Burris 6-18X scope. It worked great, because the extremely long tube of this model allows the ocular end of the scope to hang back behind the rear sight and gets the optics down low where they belong.

Disassembly is accomplished by unscrewing the barrel nut, following which the guts of the action all begin to unload towards the front. Like many modern firearms, the MR1 utilizes a two-piece receiver, with the lower being the serial numbered part. As you'll see in the photo showing the stripped gun, there's more than a little similarity to Benelli's shotgun system. The rifle's bolt head is a three-lug design and rotates into position to lock the breech closed. A generously sized extractor and a plunger type ejector occupy relevant spaces on the bolt face. Even a casual look at the inner parts of this rifle reveal typical Benelli build quality.

That two-piece receiver means Benelli could theoretically make upper assemblies in different calibres and configurations and market those to people who already own MR1s. However, in the rifle's more than a decade of existence, they haven't seen fit to do that. The US version has a shorter barrel (16 inches) which would be restricted in Canada, and there are two buttstock configurations available. But that's about it. There's also been no apparent interest from the aftermarket manufacturers, as I can't find a single aftermarket part for this rifle.

SHOOTING RESULTS

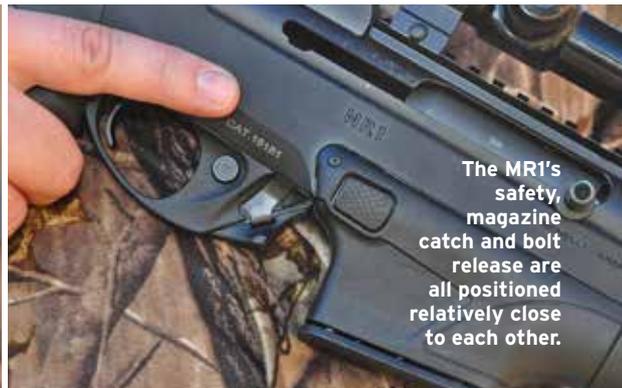
I started shooting the Benelli with an assortment of six different factory loads, and with bullets ranging from 50 to 79 grains I figured on finding something the rifle's one-on-nine-inch twist barrel liked. Some days, however, things don't work as expected and the MR1 didn't like any of what I had available. By my count, that leaves at least 50 more 223 Remington loads from the major ammunition makers to try, so I'm sure factory ammunition shooters can find something their particular rifle might like. Instead of buying more ammunition, I turned to handloads and things started to percolate when the diet became Nosler 60-grain Ballistic Tips, fuelled by Varget powder.

When stripped, the shotgun heritage of the MR1 is readily visible.





The rifle's rotating three-lug bolt exhibits typical Benelli construction quality



The MR1's safety, magazine catch and bolt release are all positioned relatively close to each other.



A handload using Nosler 60-grain bullets and Varget powder proved to be a good recipe for taking big Canadian coyotes.



The Benelli MR1 remains non-restricted in Canada, after having been on the market here for more than a decade.

I'm thinking that barrel nut might have something to do with the fussiness I found in the MR1's ammunition preferences. I always see maximum accuracy delivered by free-floating barrels, especially when the round count starts to add up and the barrel gets hot. This rifle's barrel is anything but free floating.

Once I found the right recipe, the MR1 fired five consecutive three-shot groups which averaged 1.26 minute-of-angle. Yes, if I took the single best three-shot group, I could report sub-minute-of-angle performance, but in my opinion that's not a meaningful statistical result. The five-group three-shot average does give an accurate representation of what the rifle will do before the barrel heats up.

ON THE HUNT

In any case, accuracy level is plenty good enough for coyote hunting, so away I went. With the rifle sighted in at 200 yards, the results were entirely what I expected. Whenever I put the crosshairs on a coyote and did a good job of squeezing the trigger, the result was a pile of fur on the ground. The rifle handles and carries well and,

as I write this, I've taken six coyotes with it; the furthest being a 220-yard female I missed with the first shot but dropped with a quick follow-up. It was a fine example of how a semi-auto can sometimes bail a guy out of a sloppy first shot.

This is also a good time to mention the rifle's reliability, which in my experience has been perfect. With all the different kinds of ammunition and magazines used, there was never a single malfunction of any kind. The only time it stopped shooting was when it ran out of ammunition.

WHY THE MR1?

The MR1 rifle occupies a unique position in that its design is based on a shotgun. Offhand, I can't think of any other rifle with that sort of lineage.

But pigeon-holing this rifle is tough. Its matte-black colour and sturdy build suggest military, but the shotgun-style safety and other features indicate a sporting firearm. I've never heard about its adoption by any military or law enforcement agency, making it tough for anyone to honestly claim it's a "military-grade assault rifle," although dishonest politicians and media will try if it suits them.

Expect to part with about \$2,300 Canadian if you want one of these in your gun safe. For that you'll get typical high-quality Benelli construction and excellent reliability. Accuracy and ergonomics won't match a \$2,300 AR-15, but you can't own that anyway. Even so, there's enough here to make this rifle worthy of consideration, especially if you own a Benelli shotgun and want a rifle to match. 

HOW TIGHT?

An introduction to neck tension
BY ROSS OEHMS

I'm of the opinion that the neck of a rifle cartridge case has significant influence on the final accuracy of the group size we see printed on paper. It appears to me that these necks, and specifically neck tension, are therefore a potential maze full of possibilities for experimentation.

In relation to neck tension, there are many variables which might apply, including but not limited to the following:

- Cartridge case composition
- Springiness of the brass (ductile properties?)
- Neck thickness
- Neck uniformity
- Condition of the inner surface of the neck
- Lubrication or lack thereof
- Neck annealing or lack thereof
- The type of neck reduction, i.e., conventional or bushing dies
- Length of the projectile shank in the neck
- Projectile jacket material

No one said it was easy and you can quickly see there are many combinations of the above which will alter the results obtained. The subject is far too complicated to be covered in a single article.

NECK TURNING

Unfortunately, cartridge case necks vary in thickness around their circumference. This in turn influences the tension on the bullet in an uneven manner.

The quick fix is to neck turn the case so the thickness is even around the entire circumference. This is an easy process with the correct tools.

Turning necks is a necessity in tight custom chambers with fitted necks, because if the neck is not turned to a specific size the cartridge will not enter the chamber. However, the unanswered

question remains, if we turn a neck in a cartridge which has a standard chamber and thus a no-turn neck, will we see an accuracy improvement? Of course, the other question is, just how thick do you turn the necks?

Over a long period of time, I've occasionally turned necks on 22-250 Remington and 243 Winchester cartridges used for long-range work and hunting; however, I'm unable to say definitively if the process has improved the results which have shown up on the paper target.



ANNEALING

Every time a case is fired and then processed through the sizing/de-capping die, the case neck tends to work harden and the ductile properties of the brass gradually decrease. If you persist without annealing, eventually, somewhere around seven to eight cycles, the neck of the case may not be ductile enough to hold a projectile, or it may just crack. It will then have to be scrapped. To prevent this occurring, the neck of the case is heated to a particular temperature and then cooled. This annealing process is not difficult, and it restores the ductile properties of the brass. Additionally, recent evidence from the firm Annealing Made Perfect in New Zealand has found that cases precisely annealed and fired with the same components will also produce more consistent velocities.

Mainly because of logistics, I anneal a case each time it crosses my reloading bench. I'm of the opinion it results in a small, overall reduction in group size, with more consistent velocities. In addition, split necks are simply non-existent.

STANDARD DIES

With normal de-capping and sizing dies, the initial compression of the case neck and subsequent expansion by the mandrel are both fixed in terms of dimension. Of course, the ductile properties of the brass will be affected by the number of times the case is fired, if not annealed. I've discovered that, depending on the brass, the subsequent "spring back" or ductile properties may result in different neck sizes in the same batch of brass.

I have been able to measure this difference with a case mouth/neck tension gage from ballistictools.com, which allows me to group cases with case mouths into .003-inch groups.

BUSHING DIES

The amount of grip imposed on a projectile by a cartridge case is a complicated subject, as mentioned above. However, with bushing dies it is easy to control the reduction in size of the fired cartridge neck, as the neck is sized by bushings available in various sizes, usually in graduated steps of .001 inches. Convention when using such bushings is to use a size 0.002-inch or perhaps 0.003-inch below the diameter of the loaded round. With a few different bushing sizes available, experimenta-



This case mouth and neck tension gage is available from Ballistic Tools.

Porter's Precision neck expanding system uses precisely machined pins to control how much necks are expanded.

tion is possible to determine the effect of neck tension on accuracy.

GAGE PINS

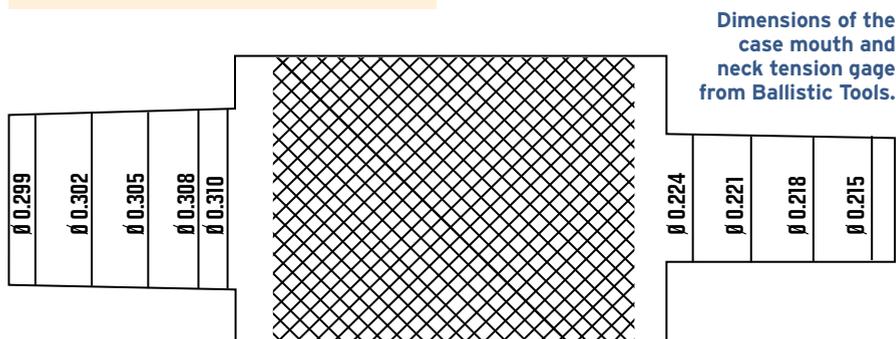
Another alternative is in the form of a collet equipped die, which holds gage pins of a specific size that are used to expand a case neck very precisely. This has been a recent addition to my reloading bench. The use of accurately machined pins adds another dimension to the whole process. Available from Porters Precision Products (portersprecisionproducts.com), the pins allow for precise control of the internal size of the neck and hence the tension.

To use these, the neck is first reduced in a conventional resizing/de-capping die with the mandrel/de-capping pin removed. Then the cases are run over the lubricated mandrel/pin combination. Remove the lubrication, anneal the case and then load. The pins are available in graduations of .0005 inches or less. One problem when dealing with such small increases in size is the sheer number of pins required. Just where do you start and stop?

EXPERIMENTING

It needs to be stressed that when experimenting with neck tension, you only change one variable at a time and then retest. Yes, that takes a lot of time and effort, but when seeking the very best accuracy it's necessary. You should also be consistent in your approach and ensure that all processes are carried out the same each time. If you alter procedures, you must start all over again.

So, you see, as I mentioned at the beginning, neck tension is indeed a maze in which it's easy to become lost. The variables are endless and if you experiment in this field, those variables need to be precisely measured and controlled. As always, if you want meaningful results, work with precision. 🏆





SLINGING LEAD

Practicing lead safety in the shooting sports
BY LOWELL STRAUSS



With each shot, another deadly waft filled the air, but I was oblivious to its presence. Except for the pleasant smell of burnt gun powder and a blueish haze in the air, the real danger flowed into my lungs undetected. I had inhaled a copious quantity of lead dust, a by-product of shooting. My first indoor range visit left me with a sickly-sweet metallic flavour in my mouth -- an aftertaste that lingered for hours -- and a concern I now contemplate every time I shoot.

Lead exposure is a known hazard in the shooting sports, but if we follow some simple steps, we can reduce its effects considerably for our loved ones and ourselves. Today, we'll explore the risks and best practices for staying safe around lead.

LEAD IS EVERYWHERE

Lead is a naturally occurring element found in rock and soil. Lead is mined, smelted, refined and used for everyday items like batteries, wheel weights, solder, fishing weights, ammunition and much more. According to Health Canada, "Lead can be found throughout the environment in Canada, in air, bodies of water and soil, as well as in food and drinking water." Most Canadians have trace amounts of lead in their bodies; in the majority, that level is of little concern. In general, lead exposure is steadily decreasing due to the removal of lead from gasoline, plumbing and paint. However, for those of us in the shooting sports, it is still an important consideration.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS OF LEAD TO SHOOTERS

At a different indoor range, months after my initial exposure, a seasoned target shooter took the opportunity to inform us of lead hazards. Worried, I got my blood lead levels tested to establish a baseline. I was under Health Canada's blood lead intervention level of 10 µg/dL, but there was lead in my system, and more than average. There is new scientific evidence that shows health effects occur below this threshold of 10 µg/dL.

Lead poses a serious health risk to all shooters; however, high-volume shooters like competition shooters, military and police, especially those shooting indoors, are at a greater risk than an occasional recreational >

shooter. Children are at the highest risk because their growing bodies readily absorb lead, which can cause developmental and other health problems. Bullet casting and handloading can also expose shooters to significant amounts of lead, but those exposures can be mitigated by following simple guidelines.

Humans absorb lead most easily through breathing, which is why shooting poses an increased risk. Our bodies also absorb lead into the bloodstream through ingestion (eating/drinking) and the skin. According to Health Canada, "Regardless of the entry route, lead is absorbed directly through the blood. Once absorbed, it either accumulates in tissues or is excreted as waste. Some of it is absorbed into soft tissue such as the liver, kidneys, pancreas and lungs." A very high proportion of absorbed lead is transferred to bone (hard tissue), which accumulates over time and remains for long periods.

A 2016 Harvard University blog post (written by Mary Gearing) informs readers that lead looks like calcium to the body. "Lead is a true poison that has no necessary role in the body. Because it looks like a lot like calcium, an essential player in brain chemistry, lead can sneak into the otherwise well-protected brain. Lead then disrupts the movement and storage of calcium inside cells, increasing cell stress, which can lead to the death of neurons and other brain cells." In the same way, lead is absorbed and stored, like calcium, in bones.

Health Canada warns, "A very high proportion of absorbed lead is transferred to bone (hard tissue), where it accumulates over time and remains for long periods. The half-life (time for the body to excrete half the accumulated lead) is about 25 years. Therefore, high lead concentrations can stay in the body for many years after exposure to lead has stopped. During periods of physiological stress (pregnancy or serious illness, for example), or when bone mass decreases with ageing, the minerals stored in bones, including lead, go back into the bloodstream. An individual may therefore be at risk for the release of stored lead into the bloodstream throughout a lifetime."



LEAD ON CLOTHES

LEAD FROM FIRING RANGE EXPOSURE

LEAD FROM PRIMER

LEAD BLOW-BACK

LEAD ON HANDS

LEAD IN MOUTH

LEAD ON SKIN



ABOVE:
A visual depiction of how lead particles disperse after the shot.

LEFT:
Using good ventilation and PPE, such as gloves, respirator and goggles, makes bullet casting safe.

RIGHT: Using a lead-filtering respirator protects the user from harmful lead dust and fumes.



LEFT: Standard primers contain lead and contribute to the airborne lead particles from firing ammunition.



SLINGING LEAD

Many cartridges contain bullets made of lead, with standard primers also containing lead. Upon firing a gun, lead particles from the primer and the bullet (depending on its construction) create fine lead dust. In indoor ranges with hard backstops, bullet fragmentation adds to the airborne lead. This hazardous dust moves through ventilation systems and settles on surfaces. In an environment like this, it's easy to get a dose of lead in

our bodies and inadvertently carry the lead off-site, back to our homes.

Lead particles also stick to the empty cartridge brass. After a range exercise, a group of us were tasked with picking up fired brass. Some soldiers filled their Boonie hats with empties so as not to carry one handful at a time to the collection point. I frowned at that idea; while convenient for the job, I didn't want lead transferred to my

skull and into my body.

In hunted wildfowl and game, lead shot and bullet fragments present a lower risk than airborne lead, but they are still a risk. Because different sources contribute to human blood lead levels, shooters with elevated levels or those concerned about lead exposure from wild game meat should switch to non-toxic ammunition, such as monolithic copper bullets. >

LEAD POISONING & HEALTH RISK

Lead accumulates in the body over time, with the symptoms of lead poisoning manifesting over months or years. At very high levels, lead poisoning can be fatal. Children younger than six years are especially vulnerable to lead poisoning. It can severely affect their mental and physical development.

A high dose of lead in a short time can cause immediate effects such as abdominal pain, headaches, tiredness, irritability, memory loss, appetite loss, pain or tingling in the hands or feet and weakness.

The symptoms may occur more slowly at lower levels and may be diagnosed as other problems, so it's easy to overlook lead poisoning. Long-term exposure to lead can cause anemia, weakness, kidney and brain damage, convulsions, coma or even death. It is also known to cause miscarriages, stillbirths and infertility (in men and women) and easily damages developing nervous systems.

Consequently, growing children's bodies often show signs of severe lead toxicity at lower levels than adults. Lead poisoning in children can occur when parents accidentally bring lead dust home on their clothes (known by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) as toxic hand-off). Exposure can cause short-term symptoms like depression, forgetfulness, irritability and nausea. Prolonged lead exposure also increases the risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and kidney disease.

According to Health Canada, "Studies indicate that deficiencies in some mineral nutrients, specifically calcium, iron and zinc, may increase the amount of lead absorbed since lead molecules will attach at sites in body cells which these mineral nutrients would otherwise fill."

A friend has vowed never to shoot at an indoor range because of its high lead hazard.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Luckily, reducing your exposure to lead is as easy as a few well-thought-out precautions.

1. Wearing a mask will minimize the immediate danger of inhaling lead dust. While this is not always comfortable or practical, some professional shooters have started

wearing respirators to prevent lead inhalation.

2. Eating, drinking and smoking while shooting, reloading or casting is a no-no. These activities are a sure-fire way of ingesting lead.
3. Have a separate change of clothes that is used at the range only. Wash them separately to prevent cross-contamination.
4. Clean your hands and range clothing. Hygenall specializes in cleaning products that remove heavy metals from the skin, clothes and hard surfaces. I asked Michael McKinnon from Hygenall how their products differ from other soaps and hand wipes. "When you build up a soapy lather with traditional hand soap, the molecules lift the dirt, oil and germs from your skin; rinsing with clean water washes it all away. Heavy metals are different than dirt and germs. They bond to the skin with a cationic (positive) charge," he explained. "Our [Hygenall] products use a special surfactant designed to remove lead and other heavy metals by breaking the electrostatic bond that holds these metals on the skin, while at the same time also cleaning off dirt, grime and germs."
5. When casting bullets, do it outside or wear your mask (or both). Casting lead bullets is a high-risk lead exposure activity, yet it can be surprisingly safe with the proper precautions. The fumes coming off lead melting pots are concentrated lead oxide. "Bullet casting is a safe activity provided that casters follow the basic safety rules and wear personal protective equipment (PPE), including a NIOSH-approved respirator, safety glasses and leather gloves. Casting should always be done in a well-ventilated area or outdoors to minimize the exposure to lead fumes," said Tom Griffin, ballistics lab and technical service manager for Lyman Products
6. If you shoot regularly, it's a good idea to get a periodic blood lead level test. It establishes a baseline and is an early indicator for intervention if your levels are too high.
7. Your indoor range should have sufficient airflow to move lead dust away from shooters and down-range where it is filtered before being pumped outside.
8. Switching to lead-free ammunition

with lead-free primers reduces the direct lead exposure of lead from firing. Non-toxic bullets for hunting removes the possibility of ingesting lead from eating wild game.

9. Shooting outdoors, depending on the wind direction, may reduce overall lead exposure.
10. Use personal protective equipment, including a respirator designed for filtering lead, when cleaning up contaminated spaces like ranges.

CONCLUSION

This article is not meant to scare anyone off shooting. Far from it! But making informed choices keeps us safe.

If you are experiencing symptoms of lead poisoning, it's critically important to seek medical help. A blood test is a quick and easy step for establishing a baseline blood lead level or, if levels warrant, immediate treatment. Chelation therapy uses special drugs that bind to and remove heavy metals from the body, but unfortunately, it can have serious side effects. As the adage goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure."

Lead exposure is something I think about every time I visit an indoor range. However, as with most risky activities, there are simple and easy precautions to take, making it safer for everyone. So, clean your hands after shooting (or handling lead components) and use PPE. It's a common-sense approach that will protect your health. 

RESOURCES

HEALTH CANADA www.canada.ca/en/health-canada has several documents for further reading on their website. Search "Lead Information Package - Some Commonly Asked Questions About Lead and Human Health" and "Reduce your exposure to lead."

These two documents have a wealth of information about lead in general.

HYGENALL hygenall.com sells a wide range of products for lead removal and is available at select dealers across Canada.

LYMAN lymanproducts.com sells reloading and casting equipment, tools and books. Lyman casting and reloading manuals are full of valuable how-to and safety information for these activities.

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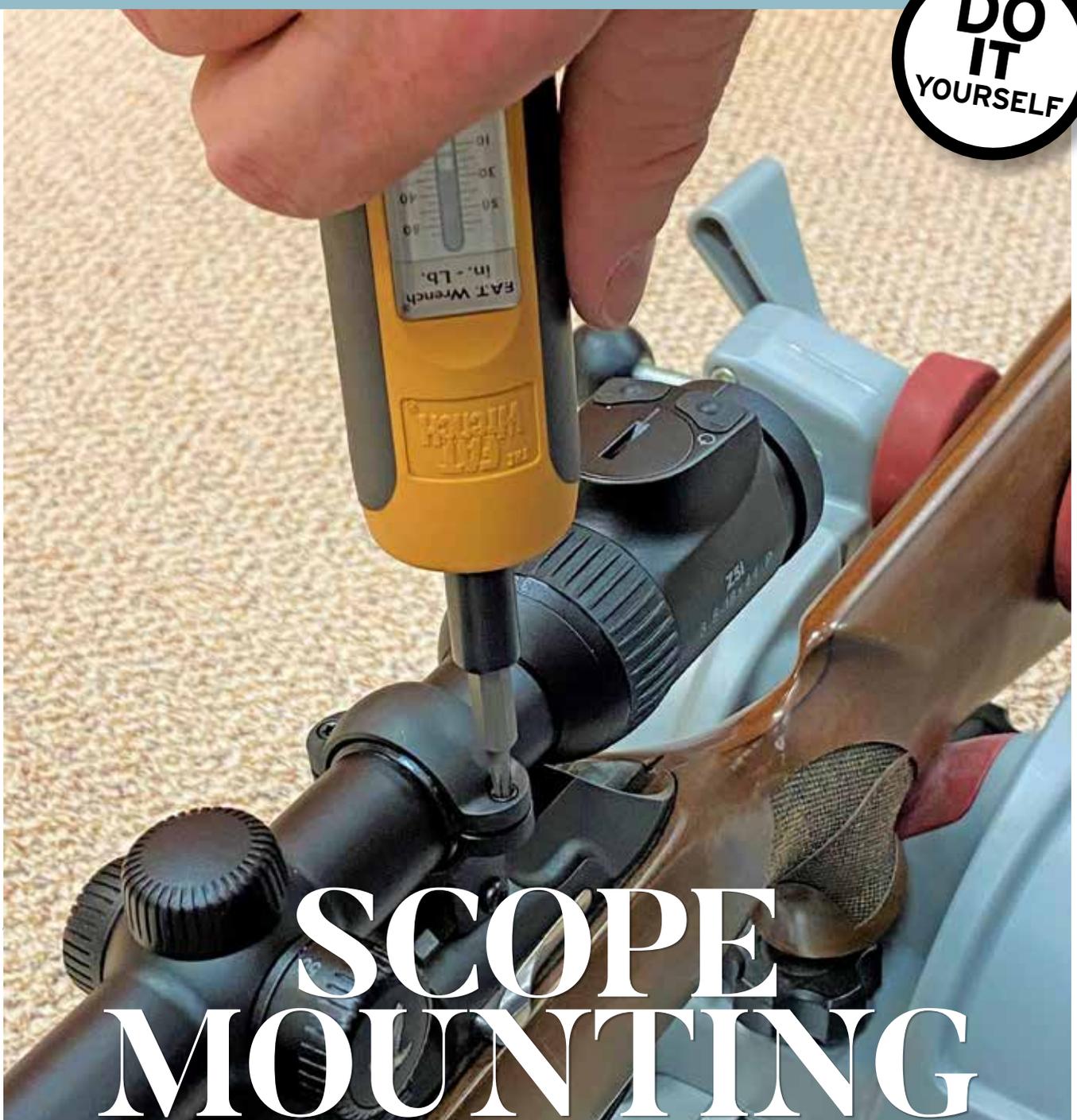
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SCOPE MOUNTING IN EIGHT STEPS

Save your pennies and learn how to do this job yourself
BY KEVIN WILSON



I love getting a new rifle scope. I like it even more when I get new optics and a new rifle. The challenge then involves marrying the two. For a moderate fee, gunsmiths will mount your scope for you. Theoretically, hiring a pro alleviates any confusion associated with parts and accessories. Then again, there is always the question of just how qualified the gunsmith really is. With emphasis on the word qualified, I've seen many scopes incorrectly installed on rifles and this inevitably sets up the shooter for a lot of frustration. A number of problems can arise when mounting a rifle scope, but most can be traced to selecting the wrong bases and rings for the particular type of scope being mounted.

Another problem frequently encountered relates to either over-tightening or under-tightening the base or ring screws. Each manufacturer determines the precise inch-pound torque ratings most suitable for their products; these must be strictly adhered to if you want to avoid damaging the scope. Years ago, I had a scope "professionally" mounted and the technician literally crushed the tube as a result of over-tightening the ring screws. A costly mistake, but this incident is what prompted me to learn how to do this otherwise straightforward task myself.

Alternatively, if you have the correct rings, bases, mounts, screws and tools, and of course adhere to a few simple rules, do-it-yourself scope mounting can be easy and cost-effective.

STEP 1: PREPARE

Proper preparation will make your job easier and more efficient. First, consider where and how you want to work on your rifle and scope. A workbench or countertop provides an elevated surface. Safety should be your priority. This means confirming the firearm is unloaded and then disabling it, i.e., removing the bolt or otherwise disabling an alternate action.

A gun vice is best for securing the rifle in a manner that will allow you to work on it. I've had good success with Tipton's Best Gun Vice, mostly because it offers several clamp and adjustment options to fit different firearms. Next, gather the necessary tools. If you have them already, collect the different wrenches, lubes and accessories separately. A great alternative is to purchase a scope mounting kit containing all these items. The one I use is made by Wheeler Engineering.



Switching one scope for another generally requires less in the way of tools, but you'll want to have a torque wrench and screwdriver (with the right bits), thread locking compound, scope ring alignment bars, a lapping tool, lapping compound and a leveling tool for adjusting the scope for crosshair alignment. It's a good idea to have a cloth and cleaning solvent handy as well.

STEP 2: THE CORRECT BASES & RINGS

Have you ever gone to the range to find that your scope adjustments are maxed out and you still can't get your rifle zeroed? I have, and it's no fun at all. If you shoot different guns, or frequently set up new rifles, chances are you've encountered this scenario. It's more common that you might think – especially with optics that have an extreme range of adjustment (ROA). Even the most knowledgeable technicians sometimes struggle with finding the right bases and rings to best accommodate a certain scope and rifle combination. That said, there is always a solution. The most educated gunsmiths I know

are well acquainted with this problem and usually have an idea where to start. Even still, sometimes it takes a bit of experimenting to determine which ones to use.

Bases and rings come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most have a top and bottom half, but some clamp with a left and right vertical orientation. Two-piece rings and bases are each designed for specific rifles and scopes. Before you begin, determine whether your rifle scope has a one-inch tube or a 30-millimetre tube, then talk to a qualified gunsmith about which bases and corresponding rings will work for your specific make and model of firearm. Don't underestimate the importance of this step. The ones you choose will, at least in part, be based on the mounting system available on your firearm. As I said, equally important is the ROA of the scope you are mounting. The rings and bases must be able to accommodate the specific ROA of your scope.

With these in hand, you're ready to proceed. On new rifles, plug screws are usually found in the mounting screw



LEFT: A solid gun vise and an assortment of tools are necessary to mount a rifle scope.

BELOW: Some technicians like to lap, others don't. The truth is, some rings need it, while others don't. It's usually less necessary with higher-end rings.

BOTTOM: With two-piece bases, alignment should be confirmed or adjusted by using an alignment tool like this one.

Tipton Best Gun Vise

holes. With the correct screwdriver in hand, stand directly over these holes and carefully remove them. Given the size and precise machining, I always encourage people to handle these screws and screw holes with care. As you remove or install screws, be intentional and cautious not to strip threads. Any time you remove screws, it's smart to clean the holes with a degreasing agent.

STEP 3: FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS & TORQUE RATINGS

Bases and rings may come with written instructions. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for placing and fastening these to the mounting holes. Some gunsmiths advise not to use thread locking compound and still others insist on using it. This is a choice you will have to make yourself. If you do, be sure to use a purple or blue-coloured thread locking compound and not red, to ensure that you can remove the screws later. Screws should only be torqued to the manufacturer's specifications. For example, I've seen torque recommendations for base screws ranging from 10 to 30 inch-pounds.





The next step involves attaching the front ring to the front base. With certain kinds of bases, this can be done with a wrench or the lapping bar. By attaching both rings to the lapping bar and then placing the front ring into the front base, turn it just past centre and then rotate it back to align with the rear base. At this point, remove the lapping bar from the front ring and set the rear ring simply by removing one of the windage (or bottom) screws, setting the bottom half of the ring in place, and then re-fastening it. With this step complete, use the scope alignment bars to make fine adjustments to vertical and horizontal alignment to ensure the rings are true. These must be in precise alignment. This generally requires some micro-adjustments to the windage screws. In some situations, lapping may be required.

STEP 4: LAP IF NECESSARY

Lapping eliminates irregularities to increase the amount of surface area the scope contacts; in turn, it minimizes

the chances of your scope shifting as a result of recoil. If you choose to lap your rings, simply assemble them, apply lapping compound to the inside of the rings, slide the lapping bar through the rings, thread the handle to the lapping bar and then evenly tighten the screws just enough to allow the bar to move with a little resistance. At this point, you can work the lapping bar back and forth to smooth out the inner surface of the rings. Most gunsmiths recommend lapping until 60 to 80 per cent of the ring surface is removed, but most importantly until the lapping bar moves backward and forward freely. When this is done, be sure to clean all the parts thoroughly.

STEP 5: SET THE EYE RELIEF

When the bases and rings are in alignment, it's time to set the scope in place and loosely fasten the rings around the scope tube. The most important step at this point is properly adjusting for eye relief. A good place to start is positioning the rear of the scope an inch or two

back from the rear of the trigger guard. With the scope set to its mid-range magnification, shoulder the firearm naturally, look through the scope and if the field of view is clear, chances are your eye relief is set properly or at least close to where it needs to be. If not, slide it forward and then slowly back toward your eye until the first point at which the entire field of view is clear. Stop there. Try shouldering the firearm and acquiring a target several times to make sure that the riflescope is positioned correctly.

STEP 6: LEVEL THE CROSSHAIRS

At this point, rotate the scope tube accordingly to level the reticle. This involves spinning the riflescope clockwise or counterclockwise until the vertical crosshair matches the vertical axis of the rifle. You can do this by eyeballing it, but it can be even more precise to use a reticle leveling tool. A two-piece leveling kit allows you to attach a barrel clamp midway up the barrel, with a second level that can be placed on the



LEFT: To adjust eye relief, slide the scope back and forth in the rings, setting the reticle approximately level at the same time.

ABOVE: With rings loose, rotate the scope to level using reticle leveling tools.

bases. In the vice, make the necessary adjustments to ensure that the rifle is sitting perfectly level, i.e., not leaning left or right. Next, with the scope cradled in the rings, place the level on the elevation housing and rotate the scope until the bubble is centered. Another cost-effective option is to hang a vertical weighted plumb bob from the ceiling. That will give you a perfectly straight up and down line. With the rifle leveled in a vice, simply rotate the scope in the rings until the vertical reticle line is in alignment.

With this fine-tuning done, use a torque wrench to tighten the ring screws to the manufacturer's inch-pound specifications. Over-tightening can strip the screws, crimp the tube or

restrict the inner workings of the magnification, focus and windage/elevation adjustments. Fail to tighten the ring screws enough and your scope could move in response to recoil. Manufacturer's torque specifications are based on precise measurements and must be adhered to.

STEP 7: BORE SIGHTING

With the scope mounted, the second-last step involves bore sighting. This can be done at the range prior to sighting in with live rounds or it can be done at home in your workspace. Remember, this is not the same as sighting in your scope and rifle. Bore sighting only allows you to adjust your windage and elevation settings to a near approximation of zero. Done correctly, bore sighting will make fine-tuning easy at the range.

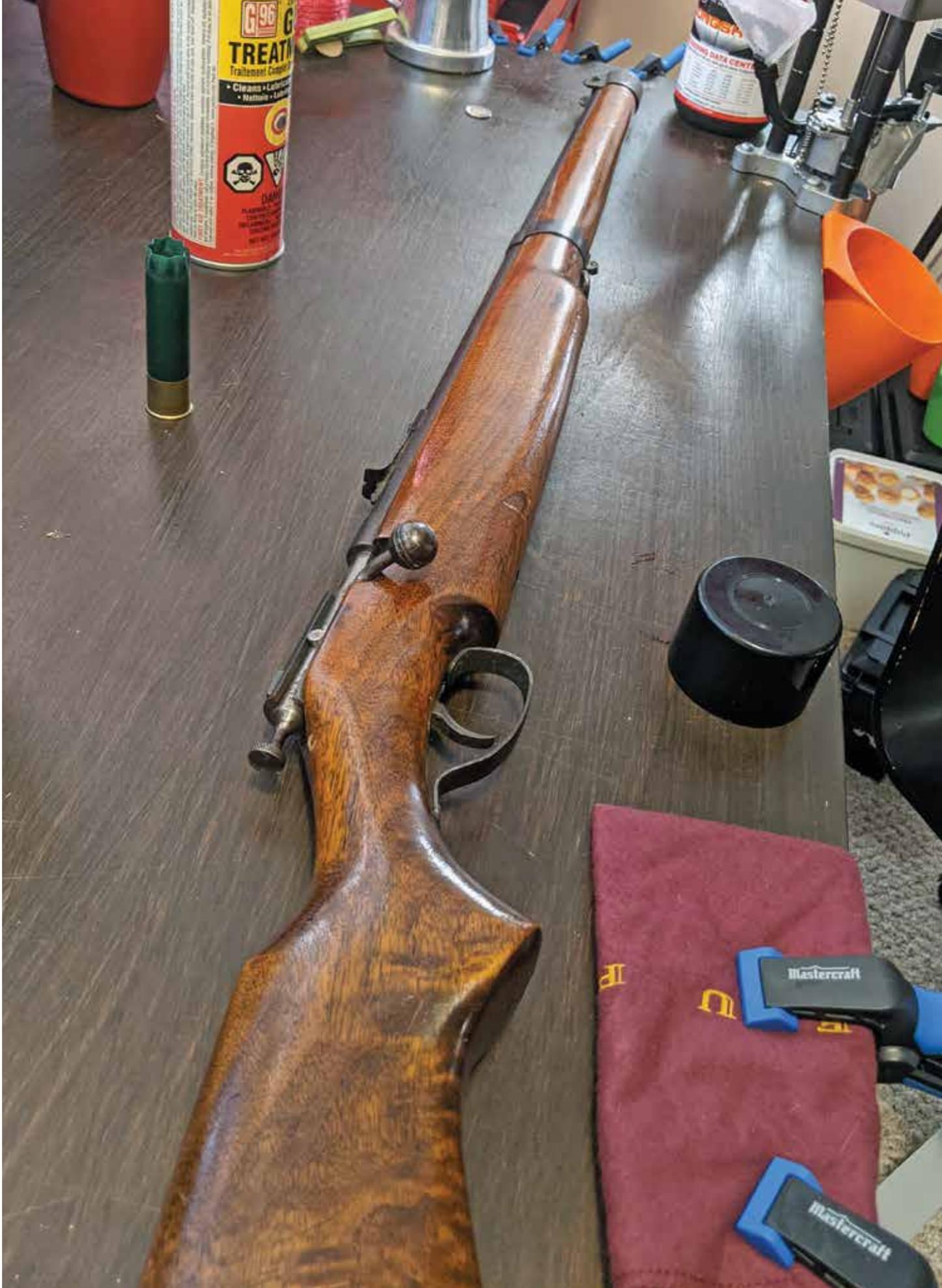
These days it is common practice to use either a mechanical or laser bore sighting tool. However, with a keen eye, bore sighting can be done on bolt-action rifles by removing the bolt and sighting through the barrel to a downrange target. Rotating elevation and windage dials to centre the target down the barrel or the laser on your target at 25 yards will give you a decent approximation. With these steps complete, you will have successfully mounted and bore sighted your new riflescope.

STEP 8: RANGE TIME

The final step to consummating the new marriage between rifle and scope is to visit the range. At the range, you can fine-tune for pinpoint accuracy. The distance at which you zero your riflescope will depend on the rifle's purpose, the cartridge it's chambered for and the distances you'll be shooting.

One of the best ways to ensure that your scope is mounted squarely is to do a tall target test. Essentially, this test involves marking a target with a 100-yard zero dot, then using a carpenter's level or plumb line to draw one or multiple vertical lines on a piece of paper. After confirming your zero at 100 yards, dial up your elevation turret 20 or 30 minutes of angle (MOA) and shoot again. This simulates shooting at longer distances. If you are hitting the vertical line, and assuming you're not canting the rifle when you shoot, then your instrumentation is set and working properly. If your bullet is hitting left or right, then chances are you may need to adjust your scope for level. For an informative video on how to conduct a tall target test, search "Brian Litz tall target test" on YouTube.

Follow these basic steps and DIY scope mounting is a breeze. After fine-tuning at the range, double-check screws and you're set to go. 🍀



COOEY KARMA

Will work for guns
BY TYSON SOMMERVILLE



Being six feet, five inches tall doesn't hamper the author's stepfather in handling the Model 82.

I've had a few people over the years ask me why I own so many guns, but I don't have much of an answer beyond, "Once you own a bunch, they start to find you." I'm not kidding. I once had a friend text me while I was at work and offer to sell me a Lee Enfield cheap. I'm now in the process of restoring it. My wallet and I miss the days when it was almost impossible to spend money while at work.

My most recent acquisition is another case of a gun falling into my lap. A co-worker of mine had his father pass

away. Months later, his mother decided to move to a smaller home, and while helping her move she informed him his father had left a few guns in the closet. My co-worker had no idea his father even owned guns, and he himself had no interest in owning a firearm – it takes all kinds, I guess.

He knew I was a big gun guy and asked me to have a look, wondering if I could point him in the direction of someone who would buy them. I agreed to have a look, just out of curiosity. He sent me an email with >

pictures and whatever info he could find on the barrels. There were four 22 LR rifles and one Winchester 12-gauge shotgun, all of which were in a state of neglect. They mostly looked like they had spent a few decades in gun cases being ignored, and there was a Lakefield that looked like it may have been in a boating accident.

I replied with the best estimates I could make and gave him some tips for cleaning them up. I also mentioned that I really liked one of the rifles, a Cooley Model 82. I had almost bought one a few times at gun shows. After explaining to him how to clean off surface rust (0000 steel wool and CLP), he seemed a bit daunted by the task, so I offered to do it for him. I don't mind cleaning up old guns and I already have all the supplies. After more back and forth, he asked if I could help him sell them too, and suddenly it was a full-on project for me.

I picked the guns up from him, and he asked how he could pay me for my services. I said I didn't really want payment, so he offered to sell me the Model 82 at a 50 per cent discount if I sold the others. I can't say no to a deal like that. The clean up ended up being a bit of work, as the photos suggested there was just some surface rust, but a few of the guns needed a full overhaul to get the internals clean enough to cycle. I didn't feel comfortable selling guns in that bad shape, so I stripped each gun, referring regularly to old disassembly manuals, YouTube and a few educated guesses. It was no small task.

I got everything cycling and as much surface rust removed as I could. I then posted them on my usual buying and selling websites and waited. The shotgun and a Cooley Model 60 sold to a co-worker of ours who wanted to buy his first guns. Next was the rusty old Lakefield to a nice guy looking for a project, and he sure got one. Things then went stale for a bit, as none of my usual routes of selling seemed to be getting interest beyond some aggressive low ballers. Finally, after over a month of waiting I sold the last two guns to two different men within a three-day stretch, one of whom drove two hours to buy a Cooley Model 39, and the High Standard Sport King is now, hopefully, enjoying its new life



TOP: At 20 metres, the old Cooley 82 still shoots respectably.

BELOW: The Lakefield was in bad shape, with this photo taken after scrubbing. Sand blasting may be the only answer.



out east. I paid my co-worker for the guns I sold, and the one I bought, and the books were closed on our deal. I was happy and believe he was too.

This made me the proud owner of a Cooley Model 82. A classic Canadian single-shot 22 LR rifle with a full-length wood stock, built during the Second World War to be used as a training rifle for Cadets (and a few branches of the military, if the Internet is to be believed). A few were also made for the civilian market. The model I purchased has standard open sights versus the more common peep sights, though mine does have the cut-out at the rear of the receiver which would allow me to upgrade to a peep. I am confident mine is the military version because it has the serial number on the grip cap (bottom of the grip) and a very faint C broad arrow stamp on the top of the receiver, which I consider conclusive. My initial thought was that I don't need it, and I could use a little extra money in my life, so flipping it seemed like the answer. But, in classic Tyson fashion, once I got to cleaning it up and saw



This iconic Cooney Model 39 took little work to get it cleaned up.

how nice the wood was and how well it shouldered on me, well, you know where this is going.

I took my new old gun out to the farm and tested it a bit. It has a fair amount of patina on it and more than a few scratches on one side, which makes me think it may have had a fall onto some gravel in its history. This, somehow, to me, adds a bit to its charm. The nose cap has sight protectors on each side that protrude slight-

ly higher than the front blade sight, resulting in a sight picture with posts on the sides which frames the target nicely while shooting. The fit and finish of the gun is iconic of something hand-assembled in the 1940s. A quick five-round group off a bench at 20 metres (optimal gopher and grouse distance, in my opinion) produced a few touching holes and the rest not far away. That's far from a conclusive test, but with cheap, bulk ammunition it does seem promising, and it's more than enough for my intentions of using this rifle for occasional small game forays.

I took the rifle for a walk to check my trail camera and to look for small crit-

ters. I found no game, but I did find its 26-inch barrel wasn't as unwieldy as I thought it would be. It has a nice carry point on what I would call the belly of the stock, just forward of the action, which keeps it evenly spaced front to back while walking. I only walked a touch over a mile but found the gun's six-pound weight didn't seem to stretch out my arm too much.

Overall, I'm glad to have it in my collection and am looking forward to putting in some time with it in the field chasing grouse once November deer season finishes up. I also think it's a good idea for anyone to have a single-shot or two in their collection for when it's time to teach a new shooter. I guess the point of my story is that classic rimfires are great, and if you ever get the chance to help someone out, try to, because fate might reward you with a deal. 🍀

Nathaniel Miljour



OUR FIREARMS LAW LEGACY

A history of gun control and individual rights before Confederation

BY ODELIA CHAN

The right to bear arms, guaranteed in the English Bill of Rights of 1689 and accorded to all British subjects in colonial Canada, was not extended to Canadians after Canada became its own country through the British North America Act on July 1, 1867.

Although the Canadian Constitution essentially echoes the Bill of Rights in the freedoms and rights protected, Article VII – the article that gave birth to the Second Amendment in the United States – was not included in our constitution, nor placed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Why?

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

The right to bear arms has largely been accepted as an individual, natural and God-given right since the Enlightenment. As such, it stems not from any government or law, and should be upheld and respected by those in authority.

This right is noted in, and protected under, the English Bill of Rights. Article VII reads: “That the subjects which are Protestants may have arms for their defence suitable to their conditions and as allowed by law.”

Scholars have debated the meaning of this article – does the right to possess arms depend on religious affiliation and property ownership? England knew from bitter experience that the right to bear arms in self-defence protects every other right. This belief dates back to the Assizes of Arms of 1181 and 1258, and



the Statute of Winchester in 1258, which protected and even mandated the citizenry to own and train with weapons.

Gun ownership in Canada, however, is treated as a privilege, not a right, and is dealt with under the Criminal Code.

FIREARMS BEFORE CONFEDERATION

Throughout Canada’s turbulent early years, laws have restricted certain people from owning and using arms based on class, age, race or religious affiliation. “Public safety” has been the stated goal of gun restrictions throughout Canadian history, beginning with the prohibition of firearms at public meetings in 1843.

The history of firearm restrictions in Canada began before Confederation. Europeans brought firearms to North America, beginning with the arquebus. Firearm ownership in 18th-century British North America was not universal due to high prices and low availability. As agriculture became more established and towns grew into cities, the need to hunt and protect oneself from wildlife decreased. The strength of hostile Aboriginal groups weakened with the growth of the European population, law enforcement institutions expanded

Since its early days, the Canadian government has struggled to balance the pursuit of national tranquility with the protection of individual liberty.

and became more effective and citizens came to depend less on themselves for the preservation of public peace. All this, together with diminishing fears of an invasion from the United States, led to a decline in firearms ownership in the late 1700s.

Militia laws of British North America in 1757 to 1808 required able-bodied men 16 to 60 years of age to participate in general musters, arms inspection and firearms training. Though the British government supplied arms for the colonial militias, arms were withheld from militiamen except when training or fighting. In some instances, men had to acquire arms for themselves. Many available firearms were unworkable and men often lacked guns.

Despite its modest circulation, the government still regulated the possession and use of firearms under three conditions. These were the discharge of firearms in urban areas; carriage of arms in polling areas and public meetings; and possession of arms by groups posing a threat to the state or public peace and safety. This last regulation was demonstrated in the seizure of arms following the British capture of French Acadia in 1810, the 1837 to 1838 rebellions and the canal riots of the 1840s. The British precedent for these Canadian measures, such as the 1820 Seizure of Arms Act, were less stringent

than those set in Lower Canada.

Controversy arose over proposed firearms regulations in 1845 following the canal riots. Opponents claimed that disarming citizens violated the constitutional right of British subjects to bear arms. Men such as former Attorney General Robert Baldwin and assemblyman Thomas Aylwin voiced concerns that such a bill would be an unconstitutional exercise of power, comparing it to the Irish coercion acts.

Many British North American legislators in the 1840s held to the constitutional right to bear arms; none spoke against this right. In 1859, the province of Canada prohibited the carrying of concealable "offensive weapons," such as brass knuckles and daggers. Initially, the bill mentioned pistols, but the reference was removed later, a change influenced by then-government leader John A. Macdonald.

Interest in firearms rose in the 1860s; many felt colonies must be defended from the constant threat the United States posed, which had become a major military power after the American Civil War. Colonial militias were revitalized. Rifle associations attracted young men to firearms ownership and practice, spurred by the recent Crimean War and technological advancements that made guns more accurate, efficient and safe. By this time, rifled arms had replaced smooth-bored weapons, muzzleloaders had given way to breech-loading guns and arms could hold multiple rounds of ammunition.

Raids on the southern border by Civil War veterans led to two acts allowing for the seizure of arms held for a purpose dangerous to the public peace in Canada, including a prohibition of meetings for training without lawful authority. This 1866 act was kept indefinitely and revived after Confederation.

FIREARMS AFTER CONFEDERATION

Canada became a sovereign nation on July 1, 1867.

The first Canadian Militia Act provided for an active militia of 40,000, with the federal government supplying arms, training and organization of rifle associations. In the early 1870s, Canadian marksmanship had reached so high a standard that American advocates of rifle shooting turned to Canadian shooters for assistance in establishing their National Rifle Association. By the late 1880s, however, the rifle-shooting

movement in Canada lost traction due to diminished fears of a southern invasion and the increasing danger of discharging firearms in or close to ever-expanding urban areas.

Gun control legislation in the 1870s disarmed minority groups deemed not full British subjects, such as Irish-Catholic Canadians and Aboriginal peoples. Following the Northwest Rebellion of 1885, legislation was proposed to restrict firearms in the northwest. Though the act applied to people of all races, parliamentary debates demonstrate that the government's goal was to disarm Natives for the benefit of white settlers.

Opponents to the bill, including Macdonald, argued for the right of British subjects to bear arms, upholding principles of individual liberty and property rights. The act proved too difficult to enforce at the end and the parliament simply amended the Indian Act to restrict the sale or gift of arms to Aboriginals.

With the rise of inexpensive pistols in the 1870s, some Canadians worried that handguns would increase shootings and encourage suicides. Stories of accidental revolver discharges by young urban men, untrained women and children, resulting in injury and death, led to growing unease with handgun ownership. Though there was never any popular demand for restrictions on pistols, they were viewed as a threat to public safety. Soon, age restrictions, mandatory sale records and a ban on carrying were placed on handguns.

In 1872, Judge Robert Harrison proposed a bill to add pistols to the 1859 prohibited offensive weapons list, which failed to pass. Some feared that disarming those near the border would weaken the strength and stability of the fledgling nation of Canada. Others believed it risked infringing on the rights of British subjects. Like English jurist Sir William Blackstone, Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald believed that citizens had the right to carry weapons for self-defence. Upon Macdonald's death in 1891, prominent men, such as Attorney General John Thomson, lobbied for stringent firearms restrictions in the Criminal Code.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & PUBLIC SAFETY

Firearms and the right to own them has been debated for centuries in this land, first in British North America

and then in Canada. Laws have been passed, too often for less-than-noble reasons, to restrict the possession and use of firearms by law-abiding citizens. From before Confederation, the focus of the early Canadian government has been to protect from guns, in the belief that fewer guns lead to greater public safety. This focus and pursuit of public safety has been an enduring theme of Canadian society; our lack of firearms and our firearm regulation levels have become, in some ways, a part of our national identity.

At one time, colonial Canadian government advocated firearms ownership, albeit an aversion to concealable weapons has always been present. The pro-gun policies of British North America were based on the need for protection from threat of invasion from the States and personal self-defence from criminals, Aboriginals and wildlife.

As towns and cities grew and technological advancements made firearms cheaper, and more people relied on law enforcement for personal protection, firearm regulations grew stricter. Arguments based on concerns for public safety – primarily to reduce the availability of guns for criminal purposes and gun-related suicides – led to legislation such as Bill C-68 in 1995, which strengthened governmental control over all firearms, and introduced both the Firearms Act and the now-infamous long-gun registry.

The irony inherent in such legislation becomes clear when criminals, who, by definition, do not abide by the law, arm themselves regardless of regulations, while law-abiding citizens who choose to bear arms must adhere to restrictions that practically prohibit personal self-defence with arms. Somewhere along the way, the Canadian government has forgotten that it is better for criminals to assume they face an armed citizenry than to know they face an unarmed one.

Firearm restrictions passed before Confederation set precedents for gun-control laws to follow. Concerns for public safety throughout Canada's history highlight why neither the Canadian Constitution nor the national Charter of Rights and Freedoms include the right to bear arms as guaranteed in the English Bill of Rights. And thus, since its early days, the Canadian government has struggled to balance the pursuit of national tranquility with the protection of individual liberty. 

The Alec Baldwin Shooting: A “Way Too Early” Legal Analysis

On Oct. 21, 2021, actor Alec Baldwin shot two individuals on the set of the movie *Rust*. The first victim died, director of photography Halyna Hutchins. The second victim, director Joel Souza, albeit injured, survived. This is a legal analysis of the event, based upon principles of Canadian criminal law. Obviously, since the incident occurred in California, the applicable legal principles may differ to some extent. However, since both legal systems derive from the English common law, it is fair to assume significant similarities.

KNOWN FACTS

I gathered these facts from various media outlets, most of which cite the police affidavits filed in support of the search warrants as their source. Obviously, some of these assumptions may prove to be wrong and, as in all cases, the presumption of innocence should avail in favour of all those involved. Hence, the purpose of this analysis is not to blame any person for the tragic outcome or predict the outcome of an eventual trial. Rather, it is intended as a legal analysis of the potential charges that may be laid, based upon these factual assumptions.

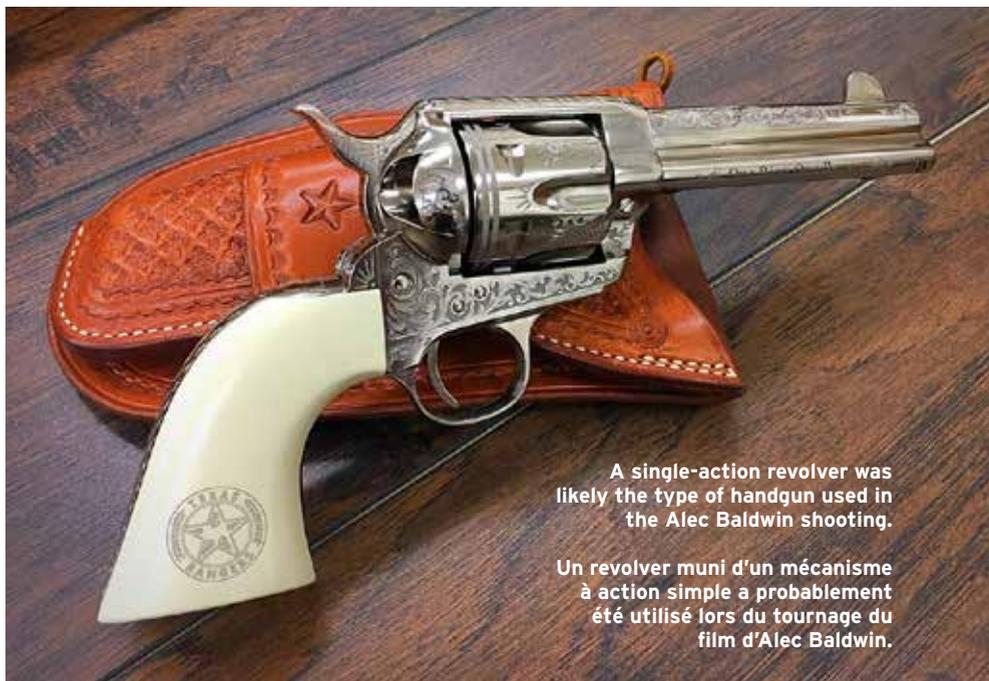
The key known facts are as follows: Alec Baldwin is the shooter.

The movie *Rust* is a western, set in the late 19th century.

When the shot was fired, Alec Baldwin was in the middle of rehearsing a scene which required him to cross-draw a pistol and point it at the camera.

The victims were in the process of checking the camera angle when the shot was fired.

Three people would typically handle guns on set. Firearms would first be checked by the film’s armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, before being checked by assistant director Dave Halls, who would then give a firearm to an actor for his or her scene.



A single-action revolver was likely the type of handgun used in the Alec Baldwin shooting.

Un revolver muni d’un mécanisme à action simple a probablement été utilisé lors du tournage du film d’Alec Baldwin.

The assistant director handed the gun to Baldwin, saying it was a “cold gun.”

The gun, along with two others, had allegedly been checked by the armorer before the crew departed for lunch.

Halls reportedly told police he had confirmed some, albeit not all, of the cartridges as dummy rounds, upon receiving the gun from the armorer.

The incident occurred after the crew returned from their lunch break.

There were allegedly instances of the crew using some of the guns meant for use on the movie set for recreation during breaks.

Alec Baldwin was also the movie’s producer.

In the motion picture industry, since guns are featured in many productions, the customary rules are as follows:

Prop guns (i.e., inert replicas) are used in scenes where an actor is shown handling or carrying a firearm without shooting it.

Real firearms loaded with blanks are used in scenes where an actor fires a gun.

Dummy cartridges are used where the cartridges themselves may be visible.

In some cases, the real firearms are modified to cycle blank ammunition.

Live ammunition should never be present on set.

SOME REASONABLE ASSUMPTIONS

Given what we know, it is reasonable to make certain assumptions.

The device used, although described by multiple media as a “prop gun,” was obviously a real firearm, capable of shooting live rounds.

The gun was obviously loaded with at least one live round of ammunition, since it fired and killed one person, while injuring another, and thus was not “cold.”

Baldwin either relied upon the assistant director’s word that the gun was cold and did not bother to prove it safe or did so incorrectly.

Given that *Rust* is a western set in the late 19th century, the gun used is likely a single-action revolver – a Colt 1873 SAA or similar revolver is most likely.

A single-action revolver cannot accidentally discharge unless it is cocked.

THE UNKNOWNNS

There are multiple unknownns that may influence the ultimate outcome of an eventual prosecution. Here are the key ones, often in the form of questions.

What is the origin of the live ammunition that Baldwin fired?

Was the gun defective?

Did Baldwin pull the trigger, release the hammer, or did the gun fire on its own after being cocked?

Whether the armorer properly checked the guns for safety in the first place?

Whether the guns were left unsupervised for any extent of time after they were checked for safety, if they were?

Whether the gun that Baldwin shot was handled by an unauthorized third party, after the armorer last checked it?

Whether there is any sabotage involved?

Whether it is customary, in the movie industry, for each person to prove a gun safe before handling it? In other words: can a handler, for expediency purposes, rely upon an initial check by the armorer and a supposedly known and reliable chain of possession?

Whether it is customary to train actors in firearms safety and, more specifically, whether Baldwin, as an actor, ever received or sought such training?

Did Baldwin's role as the movie's producer play any part in safety being compromised, and to what extent?

What are the applicable occupational health and safety rules and whether they were implemented on the movie set?

Which other safety rules were in place on the movie set, and whether they were observed?

POTENTIAL CRIMINAL CHARGES

It is highly unlikely that anyone will be charged with murder. Indeed, murder, whether in the first or second degree, requires an "intent to cause death." The only instance where murder charges could be laid is if proof were to be uncovered that Baldwin knew the gun was loaded with live ammunition and wilfully shot his victims. In that instance, he would be charged with the murder of

Halyna Hutchins, and potentially with the attempted murder of Joel Souza.

On the other hand, if a third party sabotaged the gun by planting the live ammunition, with the intent to cause potential injury or death, that person could be charged with murder or manslaughter.

The more likely scenario involves charges of manslaughter or, as it is known in several US jurisdictions, negligent homicide. If the incident had occurred in Canada, the charges would likely be manslaughter and careless use of a firearm, under Section 86(1) of the Criminal Code. The relevant paragraph reads as follows:

Careless use of firearm, etc.

86 (1) Every person commits an offence who, without lawful excuse, uses, carries, handles, ships, transports or stores a firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or any ammunition or prohibited ammunition in a careless manner or without reasonable precautions for the safety of other persons.

Manslaughter is the act of causing death as a consequence of the commission of another criminal offence, albeit such death was unintended.

Careless use of a firearm is an infraction of criminal negligence. The law requires proof that the perpetrator's conduct was not only negligent (in the civil sense), but that his conduct represents a "marked departure" from the accepted standard of conduct. That standard of conduct will likely be examined, not by looking at what you and I are expected to do at a gun range, but likely by looking at how firearms are handled in the movie industry in general. In that respect, the existence of specific occupational health and safety rules and their nature may determine the applicable standard of conduct. A proven marked departure from those rules will be required in order for a conviction to occur.

The guidelines and safety measures that were in place will be examined, as well as the extent to which they were observed on the set of *Rust*. Since Baldwin held a dual role, as both an actor (shooter) and movie producer, his role as producer and

the extent to which his decisions may have compromised the safety of the individuals on the movie set will be examined. His general attitude towards firearms on set and whether he was dismissive of safety rules will also be important factors.

Depending upon the actual answers to the questions raised in the unknownns (above), it is possible that charges of manslaughter, careless use or handling (or their California equivalent) could be laid against other individuals involved, such as the armorer and the assistant director.

It is open for debate whether Baldwin could be charged with pointing a firearm, and it will ultimately depend on whether pointing the firearm in the direction in which it was fired was required by the scene and expected at that time; in other words, whether the victims had given implied consent to the firearm being pointed in their direction.

CONCLUSIONS

It is way too early to predict not only the outcome of an eventual trial, but also whether charges will be laid at all, and against whom.

Given that this incident happened in the movie industry, and to boot that Baldwin is a well-known anti-gun activist, it is likely that both sides will try and spin this incident to their advantage.

Unsurprisingly, a (Democrat) California legislator has already indicated his intent to introduce legislation banning the use of real firearms on movie sets. In typical fashion, the object is being blamed, instead of the careless actions of the individuals that led to this tragedy.

What it should lead to is a tightening of safety rules on film sets and their actual implementation, and more emphasis on gun safety training amongst actors and other parties involved in handling firearms on movie sets. Cinema is make-believe, but oftentimes the guns used in movies are real. There is, after all, a reason for the two pillars of gun safety: always prove a gun safe before you handle it and do not point it at anything that you do not intend to destroy. Hollywood may need to be reminded of this. 



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

L'incident Alec Baldwin: Une Analyse Juridique Précoce

Le 21 octobre 2021, l'acteur Alec Baldwin aurait atteint deux individus par balle, sur le plateau de tournage du film *Rust*. La première victime, la directrice de la photographie Halyna Hutchins est décédée; la deuxième victime, le directeur Joel Souza, bien que blessé, a survécu. Cet article se veut une analyse juridique de l'événement, fondée sur les principes du droit criminel canadien. De toute évidence, puisque l'incident s'est produit en Californie, les principes juridiques applicables peuvent différer dans une certaine mesure. Cependant, étant donné que les deux systèmes juridiques dérivent de la common law anglaise, il est juste de supposer des similitudes importantes.

J'ai recueilli les faits rapportés ci-après dans divers médias, dont la plupart citent, à titre de source, les affidavits des policiers déposés à l'appui des mandats de perquisition. De toute évidence, certaines de ces prémisses peuvent s'avérer fausses et, comme dans tous les cas, la présomption d'innocence devrait prévaloir en faveur de toutes les personnes impliquées. Par conséquent, le but de cette analyse n'est pas de blâmer qui que ce soit ou de prédire l'issue d'un procès éventuel. Il s'agit plutôt d'une analyse juridique des accusations potentielles qui pourraient être portées, sur la base des faits connus et des prémisses mentionnées.

Les principaux « faits connus » sont les suivants:

Alec Baldwin est le tireur.

Rust est un western, dont la trame historique se déroule à la fin du 19^{ème} siècle;

Lorsque le coup de feu a été tiré, Alec Baldwin était en train de répéter une scène qui l'emmenait à dégainer un revolver et le pointer vers la caméra.

Les victimes étaient en train de vérifier l'angle de la caméra lorsque le coup de feu a été tiré.

Trois personnes manipulaient généralement les armes à feu sur le plateau. Les armes à feu devaient d'abord être vérifiées par l'armurier du

film, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, avant d'être vérifiées par l'assistant réalisateur Dave Halls, qui donnait ensuite l'arme à feu à un acteur pour sa scène.

Halls aurait déclaré aux policiers qu'il aurait vérifié que certaines (mais non la totalité) des cartouches chargées dans le revolver étaient des cartouches factices.

Halls a remis l'arme à Baldwin, disant qu'il s'agissait d'un « pistolet froid ».

Le revolver, ainsi que deux autres, auraient été vérifiés par l'armurier avant le départ de l'équipage pour le déjeuner.

L'incident s'est produit après le retour de l'équipage de sa pause déjeuner.

Il y aurait eu des cas où l'équipe aurait utilisé certaines des armes à feu destinées au tournage pour se divertir pendant les pauses.

Alec Baldwin était également le producteur du film.

Dans l'industrie cinématographique, étant donné que les armes à feu sont présentes dans de nombreuses productions, les règles habituelles sont les suivantes:

Des répliques inertes d'armes à feu sont utilisées dans les scènes où l'on montre un acteur qui manipule ou porte une arme à feu sans faire feu.

De véritables armes à feu chargées à blanc sont utilisées dans des scènes où un acteur tire avec une arme à feu.

Des cartouches factices sont utilisées là où les cartouches elles-mêmes peuvent être visibles.

Dans certains cas, les véritables armes à feu sont modifiées pour pouvoir tirer à blanc.

Des munitions réelles ne devraient jamais être présentes sur le plateau.

QUELQUES HYPOTHÈSES RAISONNABLES

Compte tenu de ce que nous savons,



Unloading or even inspecting the cartridges loaded in a single-action revolver requires careful attention.

Décharger ou même inspecter les cartouches chargées dans un revolver muni d'un mécanisme à action simple requiert une bonne attention.

il est raisonnable de faire certaines hypothèses.

L'arme de poing utilisée, bien que décrite par plusieurs médias comme un « pistolet factice », était évidemment une véritable arme à feu, capable de tirer de véritables munitions.

Le pistolet était évidemment chargé de véritables munitions, puisque Baldwin a tué une personne, tout en en blessant une autre, et il n'était donc pas « froid ».

Baldwin s'est soit fié à la parole de l'assistant-réalisateur selon laquelle l'arme était « froide » et n'a pas pris la peine de prouver qu'elle était sûre, soit il ne l'a pas fait de manière correcte.

Puisque *Rust* est un western se déroulant à la fin du 19^{ème} siècle, le pistolet utilisé est probablement un revolver à simple action: soit un revolver Colt 1873 SAA ou un modèle similaire.

Un revolver à simple action ne peut pas se décharger accidentellement à moins que le chien n'ait d'abord été armé.

LES INCONNUES

Il existe de multiples inconnues qui peuvent influencer l'issue finale d'une éventuelle poursuite. Voici les principales, souvent sous forme de questions.

L'origine de la cartouche que Baldwin a tirée est inconnue.

L'arme était-elle défectueuse?

Baldwin a-t-il appuyé sur la détente, a-t-il lâché accidentellement le chien ou le pistolet a-t-il tiré tout seul après avoir été armé?

L'armurier a-t-il correctement vérifié la sécurité du revolver en premier lieu?

Les armes à feu ont-elles été laissées sans surveillance pendant un certain temps après avoir été déclarées sécuritaires?

L'arme que Baldwin a tirée a-t-elle été manipulée par un tiers non autorisé, après que l'armurier l'ait supposément vérifiée pour la dernière fois?

Y a-t-il eu un sabotage?

Est-il d'usage, dans l'industrie du cinéma, que chaque personne vérifie qu'une arme à feu est sécuritaire avant d'en prendre possession? En d'autres termes: un manutentionnaire peut-il, pour sauver du temps, se fier à une vérification initiale par l'armurier et sur une chaîne de possession soi-disant connue et fiable?

Est-il d'usage de former des acteurs quant à la sécurité des armes à feu et, plus précisément, est-ce que Baldwin, en tant qu'acteur, a reçu ou requis une telle formation?

Le rôle de Baldwin en tant que producteur du film a-t-il joué un rôle dans la compromission de la sécurité, et dans quelle mesure?

Quelles sont les règles applicables en matière de santé et de sécurité au travail et ces règles ont-elles été respectées sur le plateau de tournage?

Quelles autres règles de sécurité étaient en place sur le plateau de tournage et, le cas échéant, ont-elles été respectées?

LES ACCUSATIONS CRIMINELLES POTENTIELLES

Il est très peu probable que quelqu'un soit accusé de meurtre. En effet, le meurtre, que ce soit au premier ou au deuxième degré, nécessite une « intention de causer la mort ». Le seul cas où des accusations de meurtre pourraient être portées est si la preuve révélait que Baldwin savait que l'arme était chargée de munitions véritables et a délibérément tiré sur ses victimes. Dans ce cas, il serait accusé du meurtre de Halyna Hutchins, et potentiellement de la tentative de meurtre de Joel Souza.

D'autre part, si un tiers a saboté l'arme en y mettant des cartouches réelles, dans l'intention de causer potentiellement des blessures ou la mort, cette personne pourrait être accusée de meurtre ou d'homicide involontaire.

Le scénario le plus probable implique des accusations d'homicide involontaire ou, comme on dit dans plusieurs juridictions américaines: d'« homicide par négligence ».

Si l'incident s'était produit au Canada, les accusations incluraient vraisemblablement « l'usage négligent d'une arme à feu », en vertu du paragraphe 86(1) du Code criminel. Le paragraphe pertinent se lit comme suit:

Usage négligent

86 (1) Commet une infraction quiconque, sans excuse légitime, utilise, porte, manipule, expédie, transporte ou entrepose une arme à feu, une arme prohibée, une arme à autorisation restreinte, un dispositif prohibé, des munitions ou des munitions prohibées d'une manière négligente ou sans prendre suffisamment de précautions pour la sécurité d'autrui.

Quant à l'homicide involontaire coupable, il s'agit du fait de causer la mort d'une personne, par la commission d'une autre infraction criminelle.

L'usage négligent d'une arme à feu est une infraction de négligence criminelle. Dans ce cas, la loi exige la preuve que la conduite de l'auteur de l'infraction n'a pas seulement été négligente (au sens civil), mais qu'elle représente plutôt un « écart considérable » par rapport à la norme de conduite acceptée. Cette norme de conduite sera probablement examinée, non pas en examinant ce que vous et moi sommes censés faire, mais plutôt en examinant la façon dont les armes à feu sont manipulées dans l'industrie cinématographique en général. À cet égard, l'existence de règles spécifiques en matière de santé et de sécurité au travail et leur nature peuvent probablement déterminer la norme de conduite applicable. Toutefois, une dérogation marquée et avérée à ces règles sera nécessaire pour qu'une condamnation s'en suive.

Les lignes directrices et les mesures de sécurité qui étaient en place seront examinées, ainsi que la mesure dans laquelle elles ont été observées sur le plateau de Rust. Étant donné que Baldwin a tenu un double rôle, à la fois en tant qu'acteur (tireur) et producteur de films, son rôle en tant que producteur, et la mesure où ses décisions ont pu compromettre la sécurité des individus sur le plateau de tournage sera analysé. Son attitude générale à l'égard des armes à feu sur le plateau et s'il a été dédaigneux des règles de sécurité seront également des facteurs importants.

Selon les réponses réelles aux questions soulevées dans les inconnues (ci-dessus), il est possible que des

accusations d'homicide par négligence, d'utilisation ou de manipulation négligente (ou leur équivalent californien) puissent être portées contre plusieurs des personnes impliquées.

La question de savoir si Baldwin pourrait être accusé d'avoir « pointé une arme à feu » est ouverte, et cela dépendra en fin de compte de la question de savoir si le fait de pointer l'arme à feu dans la direction dans laquelle il a tiré était requis par la scène et prévu à ce moment-là; en d'autres termes, il faudra déterminer si les victimes avaient donné leur « consentement » implicite à ce que l'arme à feu soit « pointée » dans leur direction.

CONCLUSIONS

Il est beaucoup trop tôt pour prédire non seulement l'issue d'un éventuel procès, mais même si des accusations seront portées et contre qui elles le seront.

Étant donné que cet incident s'est produit dans l'industrie du cinéma, et que Baldwin est un activiste anti-armes à feu bien connu, il est probable que les deux camps essaieront de présenter cet incident à leur avantage.

Sans surprises, un politicien (démocrate) de Californie a annoncé son intention de présenter un projet de loi visant à bannir l'utilisation de véritables armes à feu sur les plateaux de tournage. Comme on pouvait s'y attendre, on préfère encore blâmer l'objet, que les actions irresponsables des individus impliqués.

Il est souhaitable que cet incident amène un resserrement des règles de sécurité sur les plateaux de tournage et leur mise en œuvre effective. De plus, il mettra peut-être en lumière la nécessité d'attacher une plus grande importance à la formation en matière de sécurité dans le maniement des armes à feu parmi les acteurs et les autres intervenants. Le cinéma est un art de fiction, mais souvent les armes qui sont utilisées dans les films sont bien réelles. Après tout, il y a une raison pour l'existence des deux piliers de la sécurité des armes à feu: assurez-vous toujours qu'une arme à feu est sécuritaire avant de la manipuler et ne la pointez jamais vers quelque chose que vous n'avez pas l'intention de détruire. Hollywood aurait peut-être besoin de se le faire rappeler. 

Made in Canada

Jeff Smith

Ship 2 Shore Firearm Products



Ship 2 Shore is a Canadian company specializing in eco-friendly lubricants and corrosion prevention products for marine and heavy industry. Headquartered in Burnaby, BC, with all manufacturing done in an ISO 9001 plant in Ontario, they serve a worldwide client base. In the last few years, they have started manufacturing a light cleaning and lubricating product highly suitable for cleaning and maintaining firearms. Additionally, they manufacture an anti-corrosive product suitable for firearm storage. Being a part of the global economy, many of their smaller-sized items are shipped to the US for packaging and then distribution, hence the “Assembled in the USA” labelling on the gun-related products. I have been testing their products in all my firearms since the spring of 2021 with excellent results.

The company’s 5-in-1 gun wipes are disposable towels soaked or infused with a solution which cleans, lubricates, stops rust, penetrates and resists carbon build up. Each towel measures 9 by 6 1/4 inches, which is plenty big enough to clean and wipe down sev-

eral firearms. I cut them into smaller sizes to make each towel go further. The remainder of the towel is simply placed back into the original envelope and then into a zippered plastic bag.

They also offer a half-ounce tube of the same lubricant these towels contain. To use, it’s possible to simply squeeze the needed amount of lube onto a regular cleaning patch and use that way. Also, the tube allows the user to place a drop precisely to lubricate a part. The lubricant will run just enough to penetrate a tightly fitted series of parts, such as a trigger group. Again, I found it did not require much product to get the job done.

The last item I have been using is an anti-corrosion wipe. Packaged in a single envelope, these towels measure 12 by 10 inches, which is plenty of wipe to protect several long arms. They are infused with a rust inhibitor, lubricant, cleaner, penetrant and dielectric solution, which is thicker than the solution discussed above. These towels are meant to wipe the inside and outside of a firearm in preparation for storage. I’ve used them on the outside of

several guns used in damp weather conditions. While water beads up on the coated surfaces, the surfaces never felt slick. And, more importantly, upon arrival home, there was no hint of rust anywhere. Again, I cut the required amount of towel and the remainder is returned to the original packaging and then slipped into a zippered plastic bag. I have stored the open towels for a couple of months like this with no drying out of the contents.

Each of these products can also be used to protect and extend the life of other outdoor gear, such as fishing reels and knives. However, I would recommend cleaning it off a knife blade prior to use for food preparation. Although they are not listed as a rust remover, I used the anti-corrosion wipe on an old, rusty shotgun barrel. I spent just a few minutes with the towel, removing the surface rust enough that I might be able to salvage the old barrel. If you plan to refinish a firearm, the product can be removed with a bio-degradable degreaser. For more information, check out www.S2SWipes.com. 

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