CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

NFA.ca

Fully Committed On All Fronts

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

PM 40009473
Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

NFA.ca

TYPE 81 LMG

The Type 81 LMG is an infantry support version of the Type 81 rifle family. Chambered in the same 7.62x39, the rifle was designed with a number of changes over the standard Type 81 to support its role. A thicker and longer chrome lined barrel was added for better retained accuracy during high volume firing, a folding bi-pod was attached to the barrel for firing support and the front sight was moved to the end of the barrel to provide a longer sight radius for added precision. A top mounted carrying handle was mounted to the rear sight post and the rear stock changed to "club foot" style to allow the user to fire from the prone position more comfortably.

The Type 81 LMG has classic looks and is an iconic piece of history. A solid and enjoyable shooter, an asset to any collection. Options include: sling, 5/75 pinned drum magazines (with full internals), slant compensators, RPK-style muzzle breaks and Kobra side mount red dots. All parts and components are new production. Non-restricted. In-stock now and priced at just $1499. Drum magazine now included, ($200 value). Available for purchase November 1st.

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022
NFA

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

COLUMNS

4
ON THE COVER

5
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
Words Count
AL VOTH

6
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
TACCOM & More
RICK IGERCICH

8
VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Pierre Poilievre
BLAIR HAGEN

10
POLITICS & GUNS
Trudeau In Action
BRUCE GOLD

12
PRESERVING OUR FIREARMS HERITAGE
Lest We Forget
GARY K. KANGAS

50
LEGAL CORNER
Concealed Carry In Canada
GUY LAVERGNE

54
MADE IN CANADA
MDT Magazines
AL VOTH

FEATURES

14
RE-SIZING CASES
A guide to understanding sizing dies
JUSTIN FOSTER

18
THE WATSON GUN-SIGHT COMPANY
Another forgotten Canadian success story
G. SCOTT JAMIESON

22
MAKING DO
The First World War Canadian sniper
JOHN G. TAYLOR

26
TOP BRASS
Three ways to clean brass for reloading
LOWELL STRAUSS

30
FUNCTIONAL FIREARM BEAUTY
Unraveling the mystery of colour case hardening
TIMOTHY FOWLER

33
HUNTING WITH A HANDGUN CARTRIDGE
The .44 Remington Magnum in a rifle
JEFF SMITH

34
REVIEWING A RETAY
Retay's Gordion Extra Black SP
JEFF HELSDON

39
C-21 FALLOUT
Firearms community scrambles to learn new transfer system
JEFF HELSDON

42
DIY REPRODUCING HISTORY
A period-correct scope mount for a No.1 Mk. III sniper
WAYNE TELLIER

46
SANTA'S GUN JOY
Christmas gifts for gun owners
AL VOTH

MISSION STATEMENT

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

The contents of the Canadian Firearms Journal are copyrighted and may be reproduced only when written permission is obtained from the publisher.

On the Cover

Canadians have many ways of paying tribute to our veterans and active service men and women. Cenotaphs are placed in almost every town and are focal places for Remembrance Day ceremonies. Many towns also have streets named in such a way as to help people recall the sacrifices of our uniformed forces. The image on our cover follows that theme in that it depicts the entrance sign to a highway rest area which has been dedicated to the memory of our fallen soldiers. It's called the Cactus Corner Rest Area and is located at the junction of Highways 9 and 36 South, just east of the Alberta town of Hanna. The image is a shot of the metal entrance sign, which is beautifully executed and reminds people driving by that the freedoms we enjoy have been purchased with blood. The flag is red for a reason.

Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of NFA CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

Editor
Al Voth cfjeditor@nfa.ca
General Manager ginger@nfa.ca
Ginger Fournier 780-439-1394
Accounts/Membership membership@nfa.ca
General Information info@nfa.ca
Legal Inquiries legal@nfa.ca

National Executive
National President **1-877-818-0393**
Rick Igercich rick@nfa.ca
EVP, Communications **1-877-818-0393**
Blair Hagen blair@nfa.ca
Treasurer **1-877-818-0393**
Bill Rantz bill@nfa.ca
Secretary **1-877-818-0393**
Donald Feltham donald@nfa.ca

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 49090
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4
Toll Free: 1 877-818-0393
Local: (780) 439-1394
Fax: (780) 439-4091

NFA.ca

PM 40009473
Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4
PRINTED IN CANADA

From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Words Count

As a writer and editor, I do my best to use words accurately and precisely. That should also be true of most reporters and media organizations. Unfortunately, it's often not true when it comes to reporting about firearms. Sometimes it's because the firearm world is complicated, and the reporters are too ill-informed to get things right. And that could be because of an honest mistake or because they are too lazy or busy to do the necessary research to get their words correct. However, there is now a glimmer of hope on the horizon that one small thing might change, and it's the way the words 'assault rifle' and 'assault weapon' are used.

As we all know, these words are tossed about freely by politicians and anti-gun groups without ever being defined. As best we can figure out, it just means any gun that looks scary. So, the media has picked up on this language and use it misleadingly on a daily basis. Fortunately, there seem to be some media people left who want to use words accurately and precisely, and they have therefore recommended these words no longer be used as they are "… highly politicized terms that generally refer to AR- or AK-style rifles designed for the civilian market but convey little meaning about the actual functions of the weapon."That quote is from the Associated Press in a recent change to their policy.

For the un-informed, the Associated Press is an American non-profit news agency, whose members are US newspapers and broadcasters. They publish the Associated Press Stylebook, which is an English grammar style and usage guide. Although it is sold as a guide for reporters, it has become the leading reference for most forms of public-facing corporate communication, meaning it's sort of the Bible on grammar and word usage in the English language.

The AP recently published a style tip which reads in part:"Avoid 'assault rifle' and 'assault weapon' … The preferred term for a rifle that fires one bullet each time the trigger is pulled, and automatically reloads for a subsequent shot, is a 'semi-automatic rifle.' An 'automatic rifle' continuously fires rounds if the trigger is depressed and until its ammunition is exhausted."

It all means that now a conscientious reporter who wants to use words properly will begin to use the more accurate terms 'semi-automatic rifle' or 'automatic rifle.' No more 'assault rifle.' What do you think the odds are this will happen? I haven't seen it used correctly once here in Canada yet since this bulletin was published by the AP in July of this year. Instead, I'm seeing the media switching to using 'so-called assault rifle.' I guess they think that 'so-called' prefix gives them a pass, as they are now only deceiving the public a little bit. Expect gun-banning politicians to completely ignore this guideline and not change their language at all.

Now whenever you see the media using the 'assault rifle' term, feel free to complain to their head office that they are not following the AP Stylebook recommendation and are therefore misleading the public. A barrage of legitimate complaints might just change some words.

president's Message

Rick Igercich

TACCOM & More

As I take to pen in my hotel room overlooking the parliament buildings in Ottawa, I have come to realize how things in Canada have drastically changed in a relatively short time. Outside my hotel window, there is a daily protest of some kind or another, just another clue, besides firearms issues, that the Trudeau Liberals have a self-centered agenda.

I spent this past weekend in Toronto at TACCOM, where I spoke to several hundred firearms owners, retailers and manufacturers from around the country. The mutual feeling is anger. People have had enough.

I am here this week, as a voice, representing Canadians at the World Forum on Shooting Activities. This is a group of representatives from around the world that lobby their respective governments on issues that affect firearms use and ownership, and in which the NFA is a key executive voting member. The group discuses anything from lead bans to the marking of firearm parts and ammunition. The trend over the years has been that anything which happens in Europe eventually bleeds its way into Canada.

As of this writing, the Trudeau Liberals have introduced Bill C-21, which has gone through second reading. This devious bill is nothing short of another all-out attack on Canadian's rights and freedoms. The main portion of the bill is a virtual freeze of the movement of handguns in Canada, including most imports. When and if Bill C-21 becomes law, the person who is the registered owner of a handgun becomes its last possessor. Which in turn means that firearm becomes the property of the government upon the death of that person. The Liberals have already imposed an import ban on all handguns using ministerial powers.

The crew manning the NFA booth at TACCOM 2022.

L'équipe du kiosque de la NFA au TACCOM 2022.

So where does this put us as Canadian firearm owners?

When C-21 was introduced, Canadians flocked to gun shops across the country, leaving the shelves bare. With this came long delays at provincial CFOs. Compiled with parts of Bill C-71, including the long gun registry 2.0 and lifelong background checks, transfers are taking anywhere from one to nine months, depending on what province you are in. This also affected new PAL applications, as well as renewals.

Bill C-21 is a multi-faceted attack on Canadian's property rights and includes sections on magazine restrictions, limiting long guns to five rounds. This is another example of the Trudeau Liberals taking advantage of Canadians by loading several things into one bill. I don't know how they expect people to block tubular magazine rifles to a five-round capacity. They also want us to block our military family heirlooms, like Lee Enfield rifles, to five rounds, which I believe is nothing short of destroying our Canadian heritage.

So, the question begs to be asked, what are we going to do about this? We at the NFA will be challenging this in several areas, including legal avenues and at the federal government level, when and if C-21 becomes law.

With the unholy marriage between the Trudeau Liberals and the NDP on the rocks, and the possibility of an early election, the biggest game changer is going to be a government change. Pierre Poilievre, the new CPC leader, seems to be sticking to his platform in which he has promised the repeal of the OIC and Bill C-71, the stoppage of Bill C-21 and a complete review of the Firearms Act.

I ask my fellow Canadians to get out and vote and put a pro-firearms rights government in place.

NATHANIEL MILLIJOUR 2X

Message du président

Rick Igercich

TACCOM & Plus

Alors que je me prépare à écrire ces lignes dans ma chambre d'hôtel avec vue sur les édifices du Parlement à Ottawa, je réalise combien les choses ont radicalement changé au Canada en un temps relativement court. De ma fenêtre, je vois chaque jour une manifestation ou une autre, un indice de plus, avec les problèmes liés aux armes à feu, indiquant que les libéraux de Trudeau ont un ordre du jour centré sur eux-mêmes.

J'ai passé le week-end dernier à Toronto, au salon TACCOM, où j'ai parlé avec des centaines de propriétaires d'armes à feu, de détaillants et de fabricants de partout au pays. Tous éprouvent de la colère. Les gens en ont assez.

Je suis ici cette semaine afin de représenter les Canadiens au Forum mondial des activités de tir (WFSA). Il s'agit d'un groupe de représentants du monde entier qui font du lobbying auprès de leurs gouvernements respectifs sur des enjeux qui touchent la possession et l'utilisation d'armes à feu, et dont la NFA est un important membre exécutif votant. Le groupe discute de tout, de l'interdiction du plomb au marquage des pièces d'armes à feu et des munitions. Au fil des ans, la tendance est que tout ce qui se passe en Europe finit par se répercuter au Canada.

Au moment où j'écris ces lignes, les libéraux de Trudeau ont présenté le projet de loi C-21, qui est passé en deuxième lecture. Ce projet de loi sournois n'est qu'une nouvelle attaque en règle contre les droits et les libertés des Canadiens. La partie principale du projet de loi est pratiquement un gel du mouvement des armes de poing au Canada, ce qui comprend la plupart des importations. Si et quand le projet de loi C-21 aura force de loi, l'individu enregistré comme étant le propriétaire d'une arme de poing en deviendra le dernier possesseur. Cela signifie que cette arme sera la propriété du gouvernement à la mort de cet individu. Les libéraux ont déjà imposé l'interdiction des importations de toutes les armes de poing en utilisant les pouvoirs ministériels. Alors, où en sommes-nous en tant que propriétaires d'armes à feu canadiens?

NFA merchandise was popular at TACCOM.

Les marchandises de la NFA ont eu du succès au TACCOM.

Quand le projet de loi C-21 a été présenté, les Canadiens se sont précipités dans les armureries du pays, vidant les tablettes. Cela a entraîné de longs retards chez les contrôleurs des armes à feu provinciaux. Avec certaines parties du projet de loi C-71, ce qui comprend le registre des armes d'épaule 2.0 et les vérifications des antécédents à vie, les transferts prennent entre un et neuf mois, selon la province où vous habitez. Cela a également touché les nouvelles demandes de permis de possession et d'acquisition, ainsi que les renouvellements.

Le projet de loi C-21 est une attaque à multiples facettes contre les droits de propriété des Canadiens et comprend notamment des articles sur la restriction des chargeurs, limitant les armes d'épaule à cinq cartouches. C'est un autre exemple des libéraux de Trudeau qui trompent les Canadiens en incluant de nombreux éléments dans un seul projet de loi. Je ne sais pas comment ils s'attendent à ce que les gens bloquent les carabines à chargeur tubulaire à une capacité de cinq cartouches. Ils veulent également que nous limitions notre héritage familial militaire comme les fusils Lee Enfield à cinq cartouches, ce qui, à mon avis, se résume à la destruction de notre patrimoine canadien.

On peut donc se demander ce que nous allons faire. À la NFA, nous allons contester cette mesure à divers égards, notamment par des recours juridiques, ainsi qu'au palier fédéral si le projet de loi C-21 a force de loi.

Avec le mariage contre nature des libéraux de Trudeau et du NPD qui bat de l'aile, et la possibilité d'une élection anticipée, le facteur qui changera la donne sera un nouveau gouvernement. Pierre Poilievre, le nouveau chef du PCC, semble s'en tenir à sa plateforme, dans laquelle il a promis l'abolition du décret et du projet de loi C-71, l'arrêt du projet de loi C-21 et un examen exhaustif de la Loi sur les armes à feu.

Je demande à mes concitoyens d'aller voter et d'élire un gouvernement qui est pour les armes à feu.

Vice-president's Message

By Blair Hagen

Pierre Poilievre

Mr. Poilievre has a long history in Parliament and the Conservative Party, first being elected MP for Carleton, in Ottawa, Ont., in 2004 at the age of 25. He held various portfolios in the government of Stephen Harper and is one of the strongest and most effective critics of Justin Trudeau and the Liberals in this Parliament.

Winning 68 per cent of the points necessary on the first ballot cast by CPC members, there is no doubt his was a convincing victory, and that Mr. Poilievre has a mandate from the CPC membership to take on and defeat Justin Trudeau's Liberals in the next federal election.

We in Canada's National Firearms Association took note of and were struck by Mr. Poilievre's campaign, which incorporated many references to and celebrations of Canadian values and traditional rights and freedoms. The incorporation into his campaign of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's famous pledge in the House of Commons debates on the 1960 Canadian Bill of Rights, "I am Canadian," resonated loudly during his leadership campaign and offered a stark rebuke to current mainstream Liberal thought and policy of attacking, stripping and limiting the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

"I am Canadian, a free Canadian, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, free to choose those who govern my country. This heritage of freedom I pledge to uphold for myself and all mankind."

A very refreshing and provocative reminder and celebration of Canadian rights and freedoms, which has resulted in the usual attacks and derision from the mainstream media and the Liberals.

I know a great many of you reading this will have signed up for CPC memberships and voted in this campaign in order to lay the groundwork for and to make an investment in a Conservative government serious about pursuing fundamental firearms law reform and re-establishing the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

It appears that we have been heard. All the CPC leadership contenders spoke to the firearms issue in support of rights and freedoms. Some more strongly than others, to be sure, but the current Liberal firearms agenda was almost universally rejected by Conservatives. Voters made it known that the end of the confiscatory Liberal civil disarmament agenda was not up for debate. It will be done. No half measures or confusion.

I recall another time, over 15 years ago, when the Conservative government of Stephen Harper was first elected. Those of us fighting the Liberal gun laws back then could scarcely believe that after 13 years of Liberal governments, it had happened. Thirteen years of uninterrupted Liberal rule from 1994 until 2006, unrelenting attacks on the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

We were told at the time, with full confidence by mainstream media and pundits, that it would never happen. "Stephen Harper will never be prime minister" was the popular refrain by the experts, those in the know, and the chattering classes. His history as a Reform Party organizer and Member of Parliament were used as proof that he was too extreme and too divisive to ever become prime minister of Canada.

And then he did, and the rest is history. A political paradigm shift occurred in 2006 that changed Canada forever. I suspect that it's happening again; a sorely needed and long overdue political upheaval is coming that ejects an old, corrupt and incompetent Liberal government.

Deja vu, I think.

I know many readers of CFJ have had problems with the CPC, especially during the last federal election. I heard them on the campaign trail, at the gun shows and by email. I especially heard them after the then-CPC leader Erin O'Toole backtracked and flip flopped on some core Conservative policies late in the election campaign to stave off attacks by the Liberals, losing an election he should have won in doing so.

Maxime Bernier and his People's Party of Canada benefitted from the mile-high Belgian waffle the CPC election campaign eventually turned into. I also know that many of you are PPC supporters because of that party's and Mr. Bernier's principled stands and policies on many of the serious issues that face Canadians today.

Shortly, you are going to be asked to make a decision on your vote once again. Canada's National Firearms Association cannot tell you who to vote for. Just like the last time, you are going to have to look at the candidates, their records, the parties and their policies and decide just how the rights and culture of Canadians are going to be protected and advanced in the face of the Liberal civil disarmament onslaught.

I am hoping the lines are clearer, the road forward less strewn with potholes and debris, the momentum for change irresistible and undeniable.

If everyone does their part.

NFA Talk

EVERYTHING ABOUT GUNS.

LIVE & UNSCRIPTED.

Find us on these platforms and more :

Apple Podcasts · Spotify · YouTube · Instagram

Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Trudeau In Action

If one looks closely at the "progressive" policies of Trudeau, it is obvious there is nothing new except the spin. In virtually every case, all his major policies are hardcore leftist dogmas that have been eagerly pushed for decades. These are policies pushed by leaders who are completely impervious to facts, relying instead on ideology and opinion polls.

They are, without exception, stated as "big ideas" with tremendous benefits, and trifling, if any, downsides. The political theatre of high-profile announcements and spin campaigns are followed by feeble, waffling and disastrous results due to a lack of planning. The failure to commit resources or even achieving basic competence collapses the big ideas into small achievements, except for the disastrous side effects. Before one concludes that the failure of the policies to work as stated will lead to reform, be aware that the Progressives often have a very different idea of what working is than you do.

For example, Canada has a severe housing shortage, driven in large part by restrictive building and zoning laws, combined with high taxes. Trudeau's solution is to bring in 1.2 million new immigrants over the next three years. (Currently, there is a 2.5 million backlog in immigration applications.)

Another example is the continuing crusade against Canadian gas and oil. At the exact time in history when Europe's multi-decade multi-billion-dollar green agenda is demonstrating its utter failure to supply their energy needs and the staggering economic, political and strategic costs of this failure escalate, Trudeau is doubling down on eliminating the oil and gas industry in Canada.

One could go on, but this will suffice to show that the campaign against law-abiding gun owners in Canada is not unique and is often a trial run for policies with wider applications.

THE MAY 1 ORDER IN COUNCIL

Consider the May 1 OIC semi-automatic rifle confiscation. True to form, the Liberals used deceptive language to bias public opinion and pre-empt public understanding. These sporting firearms were labelled assault weapons. True military assault weapons are capable of automatic fire and have been banned since the 1970s. To further stifle understanding, debate and complicate issues, no legal definition for these rifles was created. This confiscation of sporting rifles was then labeled a buy back – a transparent lie. Happily for the Liberals, the press and all too many pro-firearms voices were perfectly willing to undercut their own position by mindlessly parroting the government's dishonest and misleading language. Using an OIC to prevent any debate in Parliament also helped preserve the spin.

Their opening move was to prepare the OIC in secret with the help of the RCMP, so that law-abiding gun owners would not be able to evade the new law – a move that underlined their contempt for any who questioned the government's dictates and agendas. The targeting of firearms that had been in common legal use for over half a century and were rarely used in crime was just another step in a decades-long process of legal harassment for political gain. To prevent any examination of the government's proof that these legally owned firearms were now "too dangerous," the government's documents were classified as Cabinet Secrets.

Their use of the Nova Scotia mass shootings as a rationale also fell apart when it was revealed that the killer was unlicensed (illegal), that the firearms were smuggled (illegal) and not registered (also illegal). For several years, the police had repeatedly failed to deal with any of these crimes. Reduced to its essentials, the Liberal's position was that legal gun owners had to be further restricted because of the actions of an illegal gun owner. Legally licensed and registered firearms needed to be confiscated because of the criminal use of illegal, unlicensed and unregistered firearms. Clearly, the real target was the law-abiding, not criminals, as every action of the Nova Scotia shooter was already illegal under existing laws. Any remaining gun owners who still feel that "shut up and keep your head down" or sacrificing the "other guy's guns" is a winning move against a government with these attitudes and agendas might want to re-assess.

THE HANDGUN FREEZE

Trudeau followed this with a ban on handgun sales and transfers. Billed as an anti-crime measure, the policy ignored illegal guns entirely. Their possession, sale or transfer were already illegal. The government then claimed this new law merely capped the number of handguns in Canada. The reality is that this new law dooms and will eventually eliminate all the various handgun sports and activities. As old participants leave and new members are unable to get the required guns, these sports will die. The loss of the existing participants and the barring of new entries will also have a severe effect on gun stores and ranges, especially near cities where the larger outdoor ranges are hard to find.

The selling of this as a mere bar on sales and transfer also conceals the fact all these firearms will be confiscated and destroyed as the current owners pass. This is one of the largest confiscations of legally owned private property in Canadian history, totaling well over $1 billion. It will have absolutely no impact on crime, just like the prohibited pistol confiscation (over 50 per cent of all pistols) in 1965 had no impact.

THE MAGAZINE RESTRICTION

Another feature of Bill 21 is the new

rule limiting all rifle magazines to five rounds, meaning five of the smallest rounds which can be used in the gun. The trick here is that the magazines need to be permanently altered. What this means in practice is not spelled out but forget about merely using a plug or pin that can be easily removed. Without these details being spelled out, it's unclear if the largely apolitical hunting and shotgun fraternity is aware this will make tens of thousands of rifles unusable. To maintain this disinterest, it's very unlikely they will spell out the details in the legislation. Those will be left to unfriendly bureaucrats to determine and gradually restrict over time.

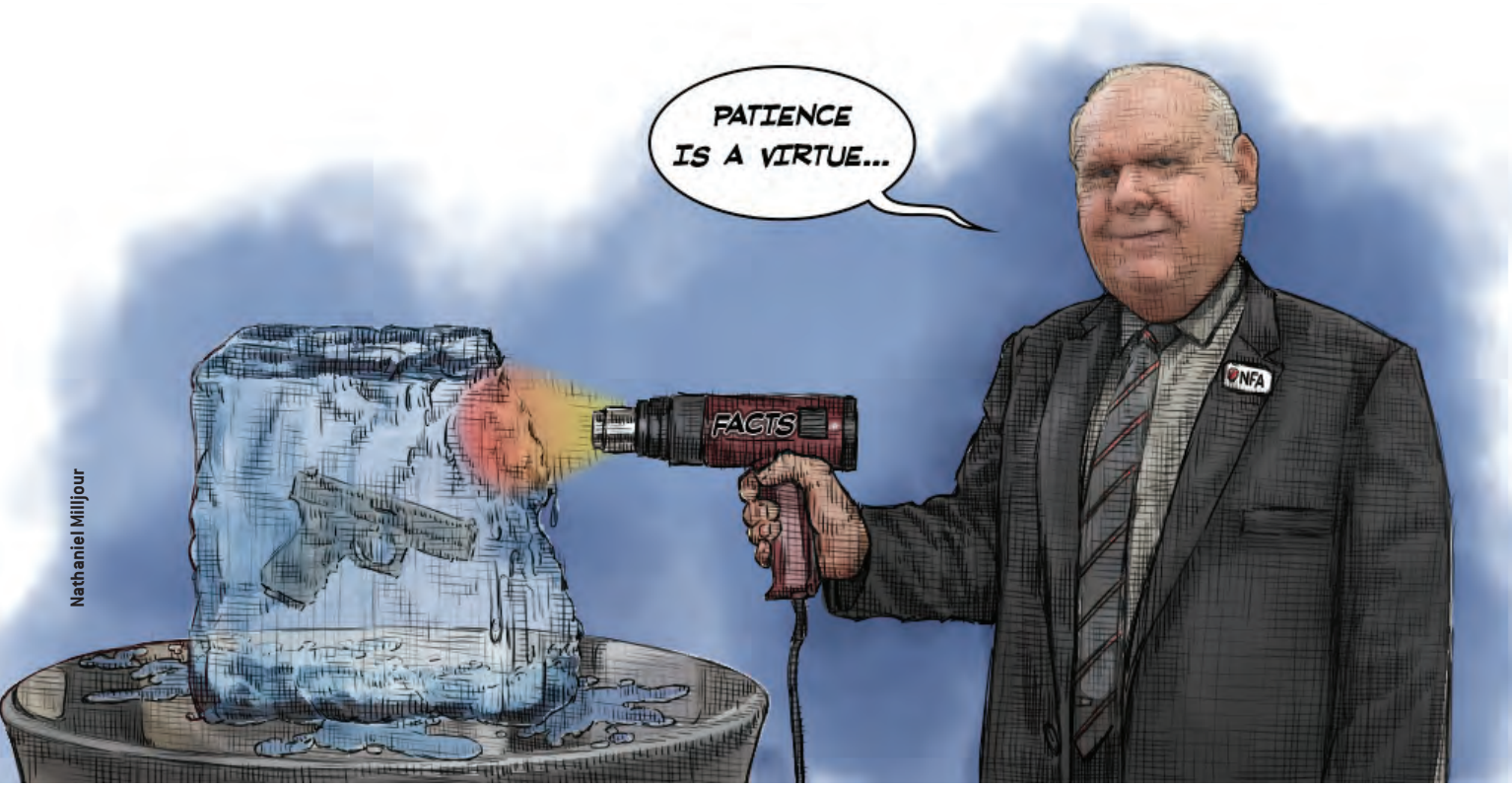
Of course, many people are thinking of this in terms of the detachable box magazine and imagine all that's required is the purchase of a new magazine. Guess again. The first hurdle will be getting the government to commit to a specific design that it will approve for licensing. This will necessarily generate a new round of licensing and regulation to control what magazines are legal. Once this is done, manufacturers will have to determine your particular model of rifle is common enough and there is market enough to justify manufacturing the product – this will not be cheap. And that is just for detachable box magazines. However, many shotguns and rifles have tube magazines which will have to be completely re-engineered to the specific model being used.

Under these conditions, economic realities will make magazines unavailable for a huge number of rifles and shotguns. Tens of thousands of rifles and shotguns will become legally unusable, except perhaps if they have the magazine removed and converted, if possible, to single shot. The government will then discover that millions of the too-large magazines are still at large so look forward to new regulations requiring the physical alteration of the rifle or shotgun so it is impossible to attach the old magazines.

CONCLUSION

This process has nothing to do with public safety, since only the law-abiding will be impacted. As to the policies "working," this will be determined by a government that wants an end to civil ownership and use of firearms in Canada. The new policies "not working" will soon demonstrate the "need" for even further restrictions, which will be as welcome as high fuel prices were to drive the transition to green energy alternatives that are already proving their inadequacy.

As to the bigger issues, principles and precedents are being established. Civil liberties can be ignored simply by a government declaration of "public safety," with no requirement for proof or debate. The right to private property is seriously and intentionally undercut by the confiscation of private property by government fiat. Note that the victims of this confiscation are the law-abiding who have followed all the laws and regulations and against whom no crime or misconduct is alleged, much less proven. Anyone who imagines these attitudes and policies are just a problem for gun owners is in serious need of paying attention.



Nathaniel Milljour

Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Lest We Forget

Re-enactors portraying a Second World War PPCLI.

We must never forget those who have given their lives, body parts, injured brains and disrupted lives to keep us safe and free.

In this modern, progressive age, there are political figures in denial of the fact that Canadians have defended this land of ours, as well as the homes and beliefs of others. The idea is promoted that Canadians have never been warriors, they have only practised being peacekeepers.

Early Canada endured conflicts based on Empire. The invasion of Quebec was the first major battle of the newly formed American Continental Army. The invasion began in June of 1775 to persuade French-speaking Canadians to join the 13 American colonies fighting the British. The Americans were defeated in December 1775. This victory boosted Loyalist sentiments in Canada and was the first time the land and the people of the north were referred to as Canada and Canadians.

The First Nations played a pivotal role, as most of the First Nations, even in the 13 colonies, supported the British as opposed to the Americans. The Continental Army made more incursions into Canada during 1776 and 1777. These incursions were a disaster for the Americans. The War of 1812 again did not go well for the Americans, who advertised it as the Second War of Independence, as they believed parts of Canada were under the jurisdiction of the United States. The Americans declared war on Canada and Britain in June of 1812, and the war ended Feb. 18, 1815. Both sides, to this day, do not concede it as a loss; however, the British and Canadians are officially acknowledged as the winners. The Canadians defended their country and First Nations once more played a leading role in protecting Canada.

The Fenian invasion of Canada on June 2 of 1866, on the Niagara peninsula, displayed the valor of Canadians. The local militia went toe-to-toe with battle-hardened Irish veterans of the US Civil War. The Canadians did not best the Fenians, but they stood their ground until supported by the regular army. These skirmishes continued for nearly five years, as the Fenians believed they could capture Ottawa and negotiate with the British, but it did not work out well for the Fenians.

The finest example of Canadians displaying their ability as warriors took place in Missisquoi County, Que., at the Battle of Eccles Hill, May 25, 1870. The Dunham Militia, better known as the Red Sashes, which they wore across their shoulders to identify themselves, were just regular farmers, shop keepers, artisans and labourers who funded their militia with little support from the local government. This militia, armed with privately owned firearms, had taken the time to be mentored by a regular army officer in marksmanship and tactics and had practised with their rifles diligently. The militiamen had gathered intelligence on the US side, to follow the movements and planning of the Fenian raiders. When the day unfolded, 40 Canadian militia sharpshooters concealed themselves on Eccles Hill. When the Fenians crossed the border on a narrow road, the Canadian sharpshooters open fire on 800 Fenians and drove them back across the border, abandoning arms, ammunitions, kit and the dead.

In 1871, the not-so-clever Fenians decided they would attack the frontier outpost of Pembina, Man., to convince

LEFT: A restored radio truck in the foreground, with a restored army truck behind.

BELOW: A Second World War kit and firearms, including a deactivated Bren and Sten gun

the First Nations and Metis of the area to assist them in their quest. It did not go well for the Fenians, as it's not a good idea to attack an area with well-armed frontiersmen who know how to shoot. The Fenian threat to Canada was stopped by armed and ready Canadians.

During the Boer War, Canadians once more proved their mettle and received battle honours in engagements in South Africa.

The history of Canadians defending themselves and others is a chronicle of bravery in the First World War. Canadians carried the day during multiple battles and were honoured for the First Battle of Ypres, Mount Sorrel 1915, Battle of the Somme 1916, Arras, Vimy Hill 70 and the Second Battle of Ypres and Cambria 1917. The top sniper during the First World War was a First Nation man, an Ojibway from Ontario. Canadians aren't warriors, eh!

During the Second World War, a million Canadians served during the conflict in Europe and Asia, with 43,000 killed. Canadians have a proud warrior history in Dieppe, the Battle of Hong Kong, Orono, plus Juno Beach. The list goes on with the Korean War, Vietnam, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

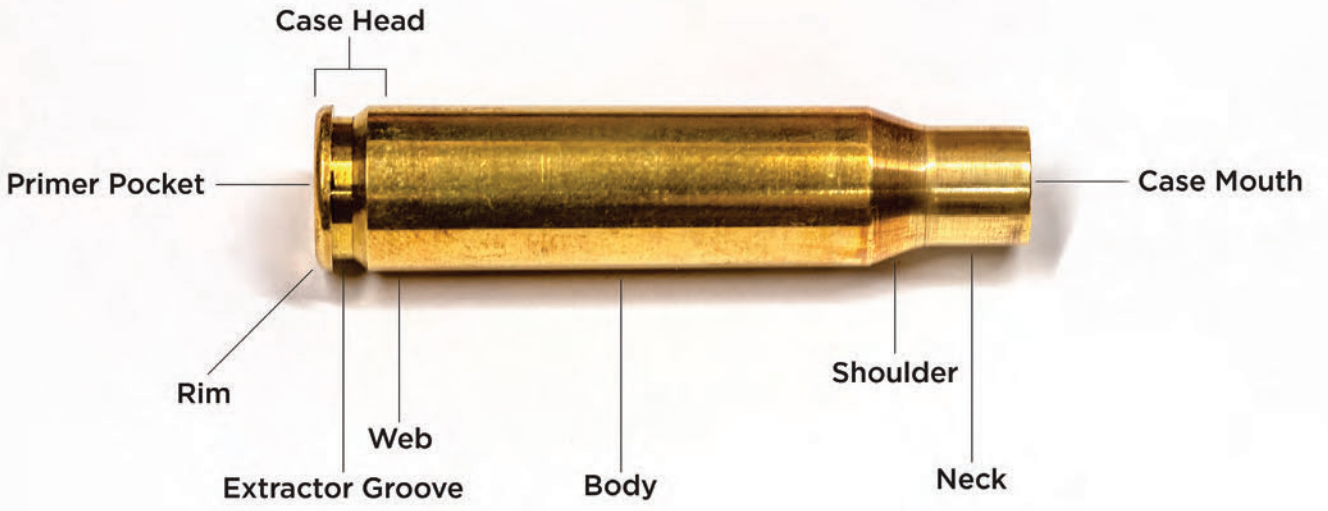
Thankfully, there is a younger generation of re-enactors and re-creators of history who, with the mentoring of those who have served in the military, are keeping our military heritage alive and visible and doing this in spite of political and social pressures from those who are stout defenders of the cancel culture and tout the theory that re-creating the military past of any era is glorifying war and it should be stopped. This is the farthest from the truth, for we must honour our history and our past so future generations understand who we are.

There are historic re-enactment associations Canada wide, which portray eras from the 1600s to date. I, personally, am a member of the Victoria Esquimalt Military Re-enactors Association, whose membership includes Canadian military veterans. The association portrays timelines beginning at the French and Indian Wars up to the current era. The major focus is on the Boer War, First World War and Second World War, with dedicated presenters who are authentically dressed and kitted. There are others who preserve and restore military vehicles, as well as equipment and kit. A prime example is a mainland BC individual who has a number of military motor vehicles he has personally restored. His latest project is a Second World War radio truck with functioning radio equipment. There are others who restore military horse gear and there is a group who are restoring a Lancaster bomber.

These re-creators and presenters are preserving our military and firearms heritage.

Sources:

Wikipedia, Canadian Encyclopedia, Manitoba Pageant



RE-SIZING CASES

A guide to understanding sizing dies

BY JUSTIN FOSTER

With the ever-growing community of gun owners come more shooters wanting to handload their own ammunition. There are many overwhelming subjects in the handloading world these new handloaders will be confronted with. One such topic is what type of sizing die to use.

However, before getting into sizing dies, we need to understand the anatomy of a cartridge case. Starting at the back of the case, we have the base. Here we will find the rim, extractor groove, headstamp and the primer pocket. The case head mates with the bolt face of the rifle, and just ahead of its rim is the extractor groove where the bolt's extractor will hook into the case to extract it from the chamber. This area of the cartridge case is its thickest part.

Continuing towards the case mouth, we have what is called the web. The web sits right in front of the case head and is at the junction of where the bolt and chamber come together inside the rifle, ultimately being unsupported when in the chamber.

Next comes the case body, which is the largest surface area of the case. The body is what makes up the space where the powder charge is held. At the top of the body is where the

shoulder starts. The shoulder is the angled portion of a bottleneck case. Not all cases will have a shoulder; an example would be the 45-70 Government and many handgun cartridges which have a straight wall design, so don't be alarmed if you do not see an angled section on your particular case before the case mouth. The angled shoulder section will then join into the neck.

The neck is the last section of the case and runs in line with the body of the case. This is arguably one of the more important sections of the case, as it is where the projectile is held.

When a round is fired inside the chamber of a firearm, the case expands to fill the dimensions of the chamber walls. It then shrinks back slightly, but never back to its original size. Therefore, after firing and extracting, the case will need to be sized back to dimensions that once again allow easy chambering and holding the projectile securely in the neck. A typical sizing die squeezes the case down in its critical dimensions, including body and neck diametre, as well as datum (headspace) length. This re-sizing of the cartridge case is one of the first processes in the handloading journey to making a new round of ammunition.

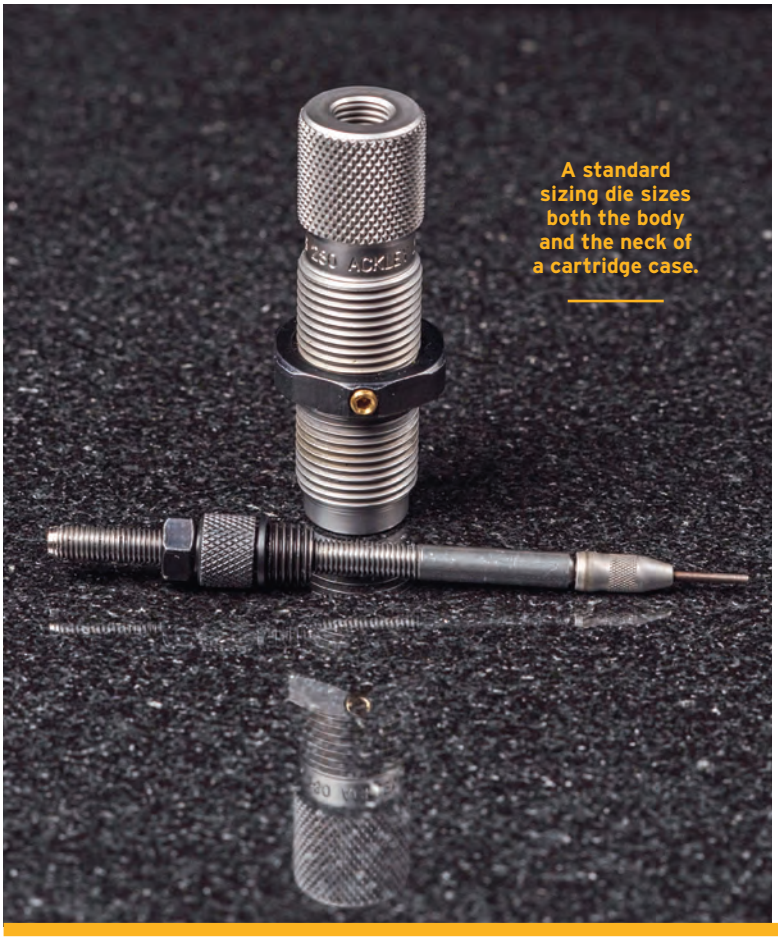
That said, it doesn't take much research and window shopping to realize there is an abundance of options when it comes to sizing dies.

FULL-LENGTH SIZERS

Let's start with the most basic of sizing dies. Full-length sizers come in a variety of options, but the biggest takeaway is the fact that these dies size the entire case. This means the body of the case gets squeezed down in diametre, the shoulder is bumped backward towards the base of the case and the neck is also reduced in diametre. Inside of the die, a stem with a pin at the end pushes the spent primer out of the case at the same time as the rest of the sizing process is happening. Also attached to this stem is an expander ball. As the case enters the die, the stem enters the case. The expander ball will go inside the case and as the die squeezes the body to the needed diametre, it simultaneously sizes the neck as well. These dies will squeeze the necks smaller than required and then as the case is removed from the die, the expander ball pulls back out of the case and through the neck, expanding it back out to a size just smaller than that of the projectile diametre being handloaded. This is the basic process of all sizing dies, with other die options eliminating pieces of the process so they only size targeted parts of the case.

SMALL BASE DIES

Small base dies are the same as full-length sizers, except they size to the minimum dimensional spec for that cartridge set by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute. These dies are popular for handloaders who are loading for semi-automatic, pump-action or lever-action rifles, which have a weaker primary extraction compared to their bolt-action brothers. They should only be used if a standard specification die doesn't produce ammunition which functions reliably in a rifle, as



A standard sizing die sizes both the body and the neck of a cartridge case.

Carbide sizing dies don't require the cases be lubricated because the carbide ring which does the sizing work is so hard and slick

they tend to reduce case life significantly because the brass is worked so much more.

FULL-LENGTH BUSHING DIES

Full-length bushing dies are my personal favourite sizing dies. These dies do everything the same as their basic counterpart, except they allow you to control how much the diametre of the neck is reduced. Some of the options in this category will have an expander ball on the stem and some will not. You will often see people pull the stem out of the die entirely and size without it, as the depriming process is done on a dedicated depriming die and often there is no need for an expander because you are sizing the neck only as much as necessary. The bushings are available in 0.001-inch increments to afford the opportunity to the handloader to fine-tune the amount they size the neck. This is referred to as neck tension. If someone says they use .002-inch neck tension, all this means is they squeeze the neck down to 0.002 inches smaller than what their neck outside diametre measures after seating a projectile in a sized case. These dies tend to produce more accurate ammunition, but to get the full benefit of them turning necks to a uniform diametre is a good idea.

Dies are often sold in sets, but individual specialty dies can be found.

NECK SIZING DIES

As the name suggests, a neck die only sizes the neck portion of the case. This die has an oversized body segment so that it doesn't size the body section of the case at all. While this can improve accuracy, it can also cause problems in getting the cartridge case to chamber again. Many handloaders have discovered more issues than benefits when only neck sizing, and it is ultimately necessary to use a body die every three or so firings, just to be able to get the case to chamber. If I can give one piece of advice to new handloaders, it is to stay away from neck sizing only. You may want to go there eventually, but it's not the place to start out.

BODY DIES

A body die is a die that only sizes the body of the case. This will often be used in conjunction with a neck sizing die. A full-length bushing die can be used as a body die when the stem and bushing are removed and used without them, as with the bushing removed it will only be sizing the body.

CARBIDE SIZING DIES

Some manufacturers offer sizing dies with a carbide or titanium nitride insert. These are a more expensive option which allows the handloader to skip using lube when sizing. They are most often found in straight-wall cases, which tend to be loaded in volume, including the 9mm Luger, 40 S&W and 38 Special. If you are ever unsure if a die has this feature, look at the opening where the case goes into the die and see if there is a sleeve inside of the die body of a different colour, or if there's a gold-coloured coating. This indicates the portion of the die which does the majority of the sizing work is harder and slicker than steel. It's a valuable feature in any handgun reloading setup as it saves a lot of time.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Sizing brass should never feel like a battle. While sometimes a steady and firm force is needed, the sizing process should never feel like you need to force it in order for the brass to go inside of the die. Unless using a carbide die, always use a sizing lube of some kind to prevent stuck cases and aid in the ease of the sizing process. Sticking a case in the die is a good way to bring a productive afternoon to a screeching halt as you work to get the stuck case out.

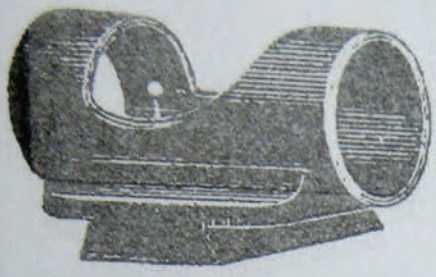
Always confirm you are using the right die for the job. The calibre with which the die is intended to be used will be stamped on the die body. Every die will come with a detailed set of instructions from the manufacturer that will get you headed in the right direction. Fine-tuning from this starting point might be needed during the initial setup to achieve the desired results.

SUMMARY

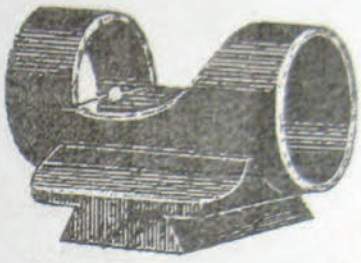
I often gravitate towards the full-length bushing sizing die, but with so many options you need to decide what your goals are when handloading. If you are new to handloading, a simple full-length die set will serve you well for years to come. If you want to take your handloading to the next level and start to separate sizing each part of the case into different steps or have more control over how each part gets sized, I suggest looking at an alternative such as those listed above.

justly proud of the

Watson's Rifle Sights



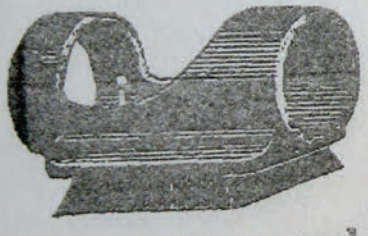
Price
$2.00



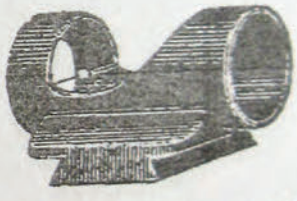
No. 8—Patented

No. 8 A—Patented

Nos. 8 and 8 A are ideal sights for roughing it through the deer season. The bead in No. 8 is 22 K. gold, secured to a fine pin of tool steel. No. 8 A is similar only the bead is suspended on a fine ribbon of steel. These little gold balls can be plainly seen in any light that anything can be seen to shoot at.



Price
$2.00



No. 9—Patented

No. 9 A—Patented

Nos. 9 and 9 A are similar to 8 and 8 A only small and fine. They are intended for all the light 22 calibers, and when mounted look handsome and in proportion to the size of the rifle.

The Gold Beads in these sights can be made any size to order.

SEND FOR CATALOG.

T. A. WATSON

CREEMORE, ONTARIO, CANADA

tisers kindly mention Ro

THE WATSON GUN-SIGHT

Another forgotten Canadian success story

BY G. SCOTT JAMIESON

While the iconic Canadian gun makers like Ross, H.W. Cooey, Lakefield and Tobin are, in varying degrees, well known in this country, some entrepreneurs in the arms field are (unfairly) almost unknown. This is a thumbnail sketch of one of them, Thomas Archer Watson.

Watson was born in 1868 and died in Toronto in 1942. During his working lifetime, he obtained six Canadian, one British and three US patents, all pertaining to his rifle sight inventions. His company was established in Creemore, Ont., circa 1896, and Watson's first sight patent was issued April 4, 1897. That sight appears to have been an excellent product but, based on retail catalogues seen to date, it did not enjoy a long period of manufacture. This No. 1 sight could be called the unicorn of all Watson sights, as I've never encountered it.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

It was a prolific year in 1905 for Watson with the securing of three Canadian patents while he was still living in Creemore. In September of 1906, the Rod and Gun and Motor Sports in Canada Volume VIII, No. 4 issue had a small Watson advertisement indicating he would be showing his complete line of sights at the Toronto Exhibition, and that anyone interested in firearms was invited to inspect the exhibit.

Throughout 1908, he heavily advertised his No. 8 and No. 9 sights in the Rod and Gun and Motor Sports in Canada journals. The sights were described in detail and the differences with the 'A' suffixes duly explained. These sights are the ones that Watson collectors will encounter most often, as they were popular sellers.

On Oct. 11, 1910, Watson secured his next Canadian patent for a back sight. At this point in time, Watson seems to be residing in Toronto, having left Creemore circa 1909. However, sometime about 1911 he seems to have been working out of Niagara Falls and one sight the author has heard of is supposedly marked "Niagara Falls." If correct, he could not have remained in Niagara Falls for long, and sights so marked would command a premium price on the collector market as they must be extremely rare, second only to his No. 1 sight.

In 1913, he secured his next Canadian patent, for a rifle sight eye cup. By November of 1921, the magazine advertisement he placed in Rod and Gun in Canada gave his place of business as 384 Victoria St. in Toronto. His advertisement for the Cooey Canuck sight was printed about this time and was interesting for his offer to supply the Canuck rifle with a Watson Adjustable Peep sight and No. 6 or No. 8 front sight for $11.75 delivered, or he could equip your Cooey with sights described above for $4.75. Based on known 1921 pricing for the Canuck, he must have had a discount deal with HW Cooey Machine and Arms Company as the Canuck was selling for between $8.75 and $10.75 without the Watson sights.

A short article in the January 1922 issue of Rod and Gun in Canada, page 776, included as statement which leaves one wondering if the company had gone out of business or had trouble securing its product for a few months. The reader can decide for themselves: "Our Canadian readers will be much interested to know that the Watson Gun Sight Company, 384 Victoria St., Toronto, are again in a position to furnish a full line of rifle sights at prices that are very reasonable…"

Watson published his catalogue No. 14 (undated, of course) and the address printed on the cover was now 62 Dundas St. East. It was while still at this address that he issued a six-page fold-out brochure entitled, "SPECIAL/CAMP PERRY/ CIRCULAR /of/WATSON SIGHTS/ made by/Watson Gun Sight Co." The bottom line of the brochure read, "Orders taken here and at our Toronto/address." 'Here' being Camp Perry, Ohio. The top of this particular copy of the brochure was rubber stamped, "Cleveland Ohio/Henry Packard White." What the relationship between HP White and Watson was is unclear. In his advertisement of November 1922, page 384 in Rod and Gun in Canada, it states, "Dealers in

Ontario, write to WHITE'S LIMITED, Collingwood." Is the White surname a coincidence or are they one and the same? Henry Packard White was a member of the famous automotive Packard family on his mother's side, who in 1936 founded the HP White Laboratory, Inc., as a ballistic research and development facility. Still in business today as an Intertek Company.

Another Watson advertisement from the Rod and Gun in Canada journal, November 1922 issue, page 384, had some interesting comments: "Better Sights/That Cost You Less/ Less, because there is no duty to pay as when ordering foreign makes. Isn't it absurd to send out of the country for foreign sights or even purchase them at home, when we shipped more sights out of the country than we sold in Canada last year…"

During Watson's Toronto years, he also listed his business address as 8 Richmond St. East where amongst other things he was an agent for Vicker's rifles. Timeframe for this address is not known but must have been short.

The Pickering News, dated Aug. 24, 1923, carried a small article indicating Watson's presence at the upcoming exhibition: "SIGHTS AT EXHIBITION, See rifles properly mounted with Watson sights in Sports Building or send for catalogue. Watson Gun Sight Co., 384 Victoria St., Toronto."

The Rice Lewis Fall Bulletin No. 5, dated September 1931, is a wonderful resource of all Watson's offerings, dimensions, sight codes and pricing. Interestingly, the Watson eye cups could also be made for $0.40 extra to fit Parker-Hale, Lyman, Marble and other makes of tang sights. Watson always prided himself in using 22-karat gold on his sights.

Watson filed for a US patent on July 23, 1927, which was granted May 27, 1930. In it, he made seven claims for protection. The patent preamble outlined his principal objects in developing this sight. "… to ensure an accurate, dependable adjustment for rifle and gun sights, and to provide a very simple form of adjustable sight which will automatically compensate for wear. A further and important object is to provide a structure of sight which presents a very clear and easily readable scale."

According to Alan R. Capon, by 1927 the Watson Company was located at 62 Dundas St. East and under the direction of Watson's son, M.R.M. Watson. At the time of his wedding in 1894, T.A. Watson's occupation was a jeweler. Also, according to the Capon article Watson became involved with Belding & Mull, a company specializing in telescopes, sights and reloading tools. Their 1926 catalogue lists Watson Target Sights as part of their offerings. This writer can find nothing to confirm Watson's involvement with B&M.

Left to right: Watson tang peep sights for Savage 1899/99, Stevens 425, Winchester 1903, Marlin .22s and Savage 1903. Also shown are some Watson No. 8 front sights and the No. 2 target front sight with shade.

Given the various addresses that Watson had in Toronto, two things become obvious: the addresses were offices only, not manufacturing locations, and secondly, his business must have been subject to a great deal of highs and lows, necessitating a nomadic lifestyle.

T.A. Watson's last patent was for US protection and was filed on Feb. 21, 1927, when he was listed as living in Toronto. The patent was issued July 15, 1930. All patents listed in this article can be viewed in their entirety via websites devoted to Canadian, US and European patents as listed in the bibliography below.

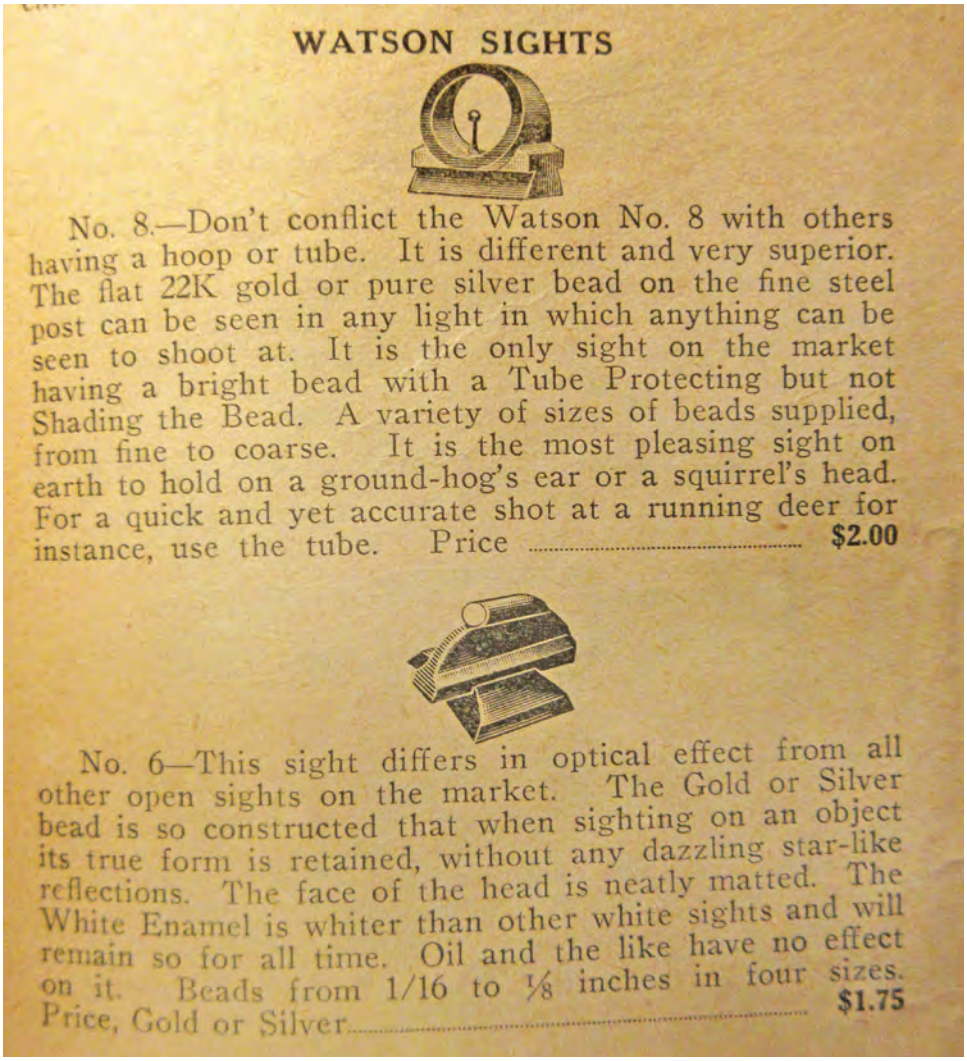
What is so puzzling about the Watson story is the fact that his sights were well liked and sold into the US, the UK and Canada, and yet his production history seems so checkered. A quick search online revealed six Winchesters of various models and one Springfield rifle all sporting Watson front sights or tang sights, so Watson's statement of having sold more sights out of the country than in it may well be true.

According to Capon's article, the company was located at 2471 Camilla Rd. in Cooksville, Ont., circa 1957. A quick look at this address in 2022 just shows a residential home, which may well have been all Mervyn was working out of by then. No footnotes listed, so following the trail is nearly impossible.

VALUES

For the interest of our sight collectors, most, if not all, Watson sights are marked as "Watson;" however, unlike Lyman, there is no coding stamped on the underside of the tang sight bases to indicate what firearms they fit. Watson sights seldom come up for sale as individual items, so pricing them is very difficult, although they were fitted to many rifle makes like Winchester, Savage, Remington, Marlin, BSA and Stevens. Watson paper ephemera does come up for auction from time to time and for Watson collectors is a must to obtain. It's the author's belief there are numerous other Watson collectables out there waiting to be discovered if the collector is patient. And like all collectables,

GENE B.



WATSON SIGHTS

No. 8.—Don't conflict the Watson No. 8 with others having a hoop or tube. It is different and very superior. The flat 22K gold or pure silver bead on the fine steel post can be seen in any light in which anything can be seen to shoot at. It is the only sight on the market having a bright bead with a Tube Protecting but not Shading the Bead. A variety of sizes of beads supplied, from fine to coarse. It is the most pleasing sight on earth to hold on a ground-hog's ear or a squirrel's head. For a quick and yet accurate shot at a running deer for instance, use the tube. Price $2.00

No. 6—This sight differs in optical effect from all other open sights on the market. The Gold or Silver bead is so constructed that when sighting on an object its true form is retained, without any dazzling star-like reflections. The face of the head is neatly matted. The White Enamel is whiter than other white sights and will remain so for all time. Oil and the like have no effect on it. Beads from 1/16 to 1/8 inches in four sizes. Price, Gold or Silver..... $1.75

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Capon, Alan R., Watson Gun-Sight Company, Arms Collecting Volume 37, No. 3 August 1999. Pp. 78-84. Defunct Journal.

Canadian Intellectual Property website: www.cipo.ic.gc.ca/patents

Index, Daily Consular & Trade Reports for Nos. 153 to 229, Volume 4, 14th year, July, August and September 1911. Page 220.

Levine Bros. Sporting Goods, Montreal catalogue, 1925 to 1926, page 19.

Might Directories Ltd., for years 1912 to 1932, 1955 to 1957.

Rice Lewis & Son, Ltd, Toronto, September 1931 Fall Bulletin No. 5, pages 471, 472.

Rod and Gun in Canada – various issues.

US Patent and Trademark Office: www.uspto.gov

World patent website: ep.espacenet.com

Author can be contacted at scott.jamieson@sympatico.ca.

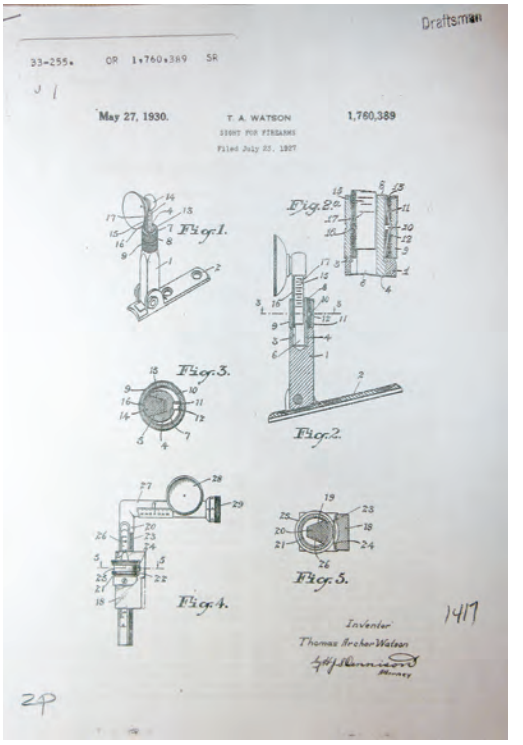
they are worth whatever the highest bidder is willing to pay for them.

In conclusion, this story is difficult to relate as thoroughly as the author would like to do, given the many gaps and questions left unanswered. What drove his desire to begin making rifle sights? What were his sales really like? Who manufactured his sights and where? His sights were unique in many ways and were certainly made of top-quality materials, all while competing and succeeding against the big US players like Lyman and Marble, even on their home turf. Hopefully this important Canadian story will lead to more information concerning this company.

Sight collecting is a fascinating adjunct to arms collecting, as is the collecting of cartridges, cartridge boxes and firearms ephemera. Two Watson catalogues sold in 2020 for $40 CAD – very cheap, in this writer's opinion. All have a place in our hobby as facets of arms collecting or as separate hobbies divorced from firearms themselves. The author, in his previous published efforts, has had to make forays into all these fields for the sake of scholarship. The author has seen tang sights that were more sought after than the rifles they were fitted to, and that, in a nutshell, might well help explain the fascination so many collectors have with gun sights.

TOP: Levine Brothers catalogue of 1925 to 1926, listing a couple of Watson sights.

RIGHT: Watson's patent illustration for US Patent #1,760,389.



MAKING DO

The First World War Canadian sniper

BY JOHN G. TAYLOR

LEFT: Martin Galilean optical sight on an SMLE, with a closeup of the front sight.

Canada dispatched the First Division of volunteer soldiers to England at the end of September 1914, after training at Valcartier, Que. They did range training with older model Ross rifles, but the newer model, the Mark III, was so scant on issue that some of the older rifles had to go with them overseas. Canada was simply unprepared in war equipment. New issues of rifles were received as training persisted in England until the Division was dispatched to France in February 1915, with movement into the trenches in April. Only the Mark III Ross went into active trench service.

The First Division initially had no sniper rifles at all. They couldn't get anything from the British, as the British were scrambling to come up with contractors to make anything close to useable optical sights. The

ABOVE: A Ross rifle with the Warner and Swasey sight, as originally set up.

Germans had the upper hand and allied losses due to sniping were tragically high. At first, the British accepted into service Galilean Sights, which consisted of placing an objective lens near the muzzle and another smaller lens at the rear sight or at the back of the body in common target aperture sights with bases attached to the side. The general rule of the day was to afford the sniper a clearer sight picture with some magnification and also to be an attachment to the service rifle in such a way as not to hinder standard service use. In other words, easy to detach. So, systems such as the Lattey, Martin, Gibbs, BSA and Westly Richards were approved and issued without trials. There is no record of Canadians using any of these sights, but they must have been observed. Magnification was normally near 2X with not much field of view.

The Allied situation became desperate, and in the autumn of 1915 the British Ministry of Supply attempted through Swiss channels to acquire optics such as scopes and rangefinders from the Germans. To their surprise, the response was positive, with detailed quantities offered and in payment the Germans wanted rubber. Possible exchange

ABOVE AND LEFT: The 1916 SMLE with Periscopic Prism Company scope and case.

location was the Swiss border. It was even suggested to obtain samples from the captured German officers to examine quality. Fortunately, the British trade persisted through the dilemma with enough increase in production that such a drastic step was unnecessary. (The British Sniper, 1984, page 17, by Ian Skennerton). At least a dozen contractors fitted various contractor-made telescopes to rifles (almost always Enfield made) supplied by the War Office, all with their own mount variation.

Luckily, the First Canadian Division did obtain some 5X Winchester A5 telescopic sights and these were fitted in the overhead position with mounts undoubtedly set up in Canadian base workshops in England. Forends were removed ahead of the lower band and the front bands and foresight blocks were also discarded. No such examples have survived today. Obviously, Canadians did not follow the British rule of saving the service rifle. These dedicated sniper rifles were on very small issue to most battalions and only the best shots were issued one. Snipers most often worked with an observer using a common Signaler's or General Service telescope. The German trenches were purposely trashed in front with miscellaneous debris to obfuscate positions of their snipers. Steel plates with sniper loopholes were commonly used and also many smart tricks and decoys were employed to fool the enemy. The Canadians had to learn the sniper craft and the delicate Winchester scope was liked. Sniper schools were set up just behind the lines.

The most successful Canadian sniper was Francis Pegahmagabow, a First Nations soldier from the Shawanaga First Nation near Parry Sound, Ont. He enlisted at the outbreak of war with the First Canadian Battalion. For his heroic actions in several battles, he was awarded the Military Medal three times. An excellent sniper and scout, he often worked alone, sometimes in no-man's land, with his Ross Mark III with Winchester scope. It was common that snipers retained their rifles throughout the war, even though the Ross was replaced by the Short Lee Enfield at the front in early 1917. Pegahmagabow was credited with 300 captures and 378 kills. Most remarkable. He survived the war and later was a successful chief and activist.

The second Canadian Division arrived in France in September 1915. They still had only wool hats in the trenches, as helmets didn't arrive till 1916. Wool is not much of a defence

against German 8mm bullets.

Shortly after their arrival, the Ross Mark III rifle, fitted with the Model 1913 Warner and Swasey scope, arrived. Mounts were American made, with scopes set up on rifles in Canada. These too were altered in base workshops in England by removing wood forward of the lower band and the front band. The scope was offset to the left (similar to most British fittings on the SMLE), which allowed the foresight block with sight and the rear sight to be left alone so that service rifle sights could be used. The 6X W&S scope was graduated to 2,400 yards and was windage adjustable. Again, few came over, but all were put immediately into service alongside the remaining Ross rifles with A5 scopes.

Leather scope carry cases were made by MJ Wilson and Sons, Ottawa. Near 200 rifles with scopes fitted made it overseas in total, with a scant issue of four per battalion. They needed more. Canadians acquired a fine sniper reputation and were so feared by the enemy that often a successful sniper was dealt with by mortar fire or a gun barrage, so other soldiers did not want them nearby.

Canadians also acquired some of the British SMLE sniper rifles. The most common was the Aldis and the Periscopic Prism Company Total production was 3,196 and 4,830, respectively, during 1915 and 1916. The Aldis was 3X and the Periscopic Prism Company 2X. The Aldis relied on the mount for limited windage adjustment, so it was up to the individual sniper to judge the wind and aim off. The Periscopic Prism Company had two capstans, one on each side, to allow adjustment. Each capstan was pierced by a small hole for which the sniper had to carry a needle-like tool to loosen a capstan on one side and then tighten the other capstan to move the lens on the inside of the scope tube. Both telescopes had a good field of view and were certainly more rugged than the Winchester and the earlier efforts of Galilean set ups. At the end of the war, the borrowed SMLE sniper rifles were returned to the British.

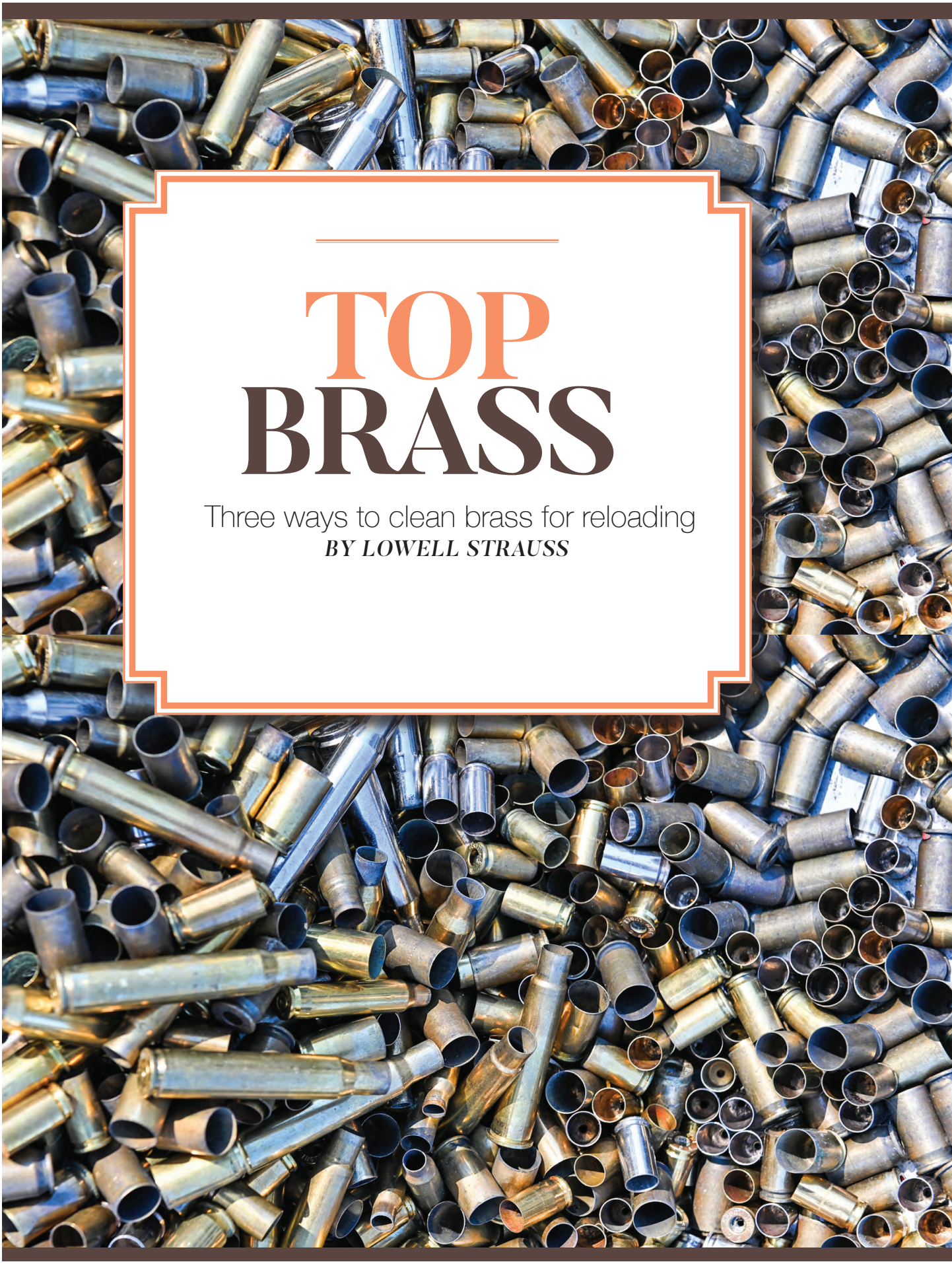
The war-used Ross Mark III sniper rifles were broken up for parts and mostly scrapped upon return to Canada. Only one survived, as it sits presently in the Minto Armoury, Winnipeg, as a Battalion War trophy to honour sniper P. McDonald of the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, who is accredited with 42 enemy using that rifle.

In the last few months of First World War, the British finally introduced their sealed pattern sniper rifle. It was the Pattern 1914 rifle with the 3X Pattern 1918 scope set up in the overhead position. It is possible that some made it to the front but highly unlikely that Canadian snipers ever got to see one, let alone use it.

Canadian snipers did their country proud.

ABOVE: Francis Pegahmagabow.

BELOW: Pattern 1914 rifle with Pattern 1918 telescope.



TOP BRASS

Three ways to clean brass for reloading

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

Dry tumbling/vibrating is the traditional method of cleaning brass, but it's loud and dusty.

Ooo, shiny! Everyone likes shiny things; it's hardwired into our psyche. Reloaders are no different. We all secretly desire brass that sparkles like new. Does polished brass shoot better than a tarnished case? No, but it sure does look pretty. Most importantly, clean brass provides safer handloads by allowing us to notice and discard faulty pieces before they're reloaded.

Today, we'll learn about the importance of cleaning brass. We'll weigh the benefits and drawbacks of three methods: vibratory cleaners, ultrasonic cleaners and wet tumblers. We'll also explore the accessories that make life a little easier while cleaning.

WHY CLEAN BRASS?

My venture into handloading started with pistol cartridges. I loved punching targets with mild 38 Special loads; this forgiving, straight-walled cartridge taught me the basics of reloading. After a while, I started noticing some interesting patterns. While most 38 Special brass lasted a long time, nickel-plated cases usually failed after only a few reloads. Cracked case mouths and split walls were common in these range-salvaged cases. Cleaning the brass exposes case defects, indicating they're at the end of their service life. Later, when I started loading rifle cartridges, I found that cleaning also revealed shiny rings on the brass above the case head, evidence of a pending case head separation. A thorough cleaning makes it easier to catch brass fatigue and prevent

catastrophic failure – something no shooter wants.

Another reason to give the brass a basic cleaning is that dirt and debris can wreak havoc on precision-made reloading dies. Grit scratches dies, causing cosmetic marks on subsequent pieces of brass. Too much grime inside the die eventually leads to stuck cases, consuming precious time at the reloading bench.

Consistency is the key to precision handloads. From primer seating depth to neck tension, every round should be the same as the last. Some cleaning methods thoroughly clean the inside and outside, including primer pockets and necks. In these critical areas, gains in consistency will reap the reward of tighter groups downrange.

ABOVE: Rotary tumblers use a water-based cleaning solution and stainless-

RIGHT: Ultrasonic cleaners use water-based solutions and ultrasonics to clean brass.

VIBRATORY TUMBLERS

The vibratory tumbler has been the mainstay brass cleaner of handloaders for decades and continues to be popular as a budget-friendly method of cleaning large quantities of brass. A tumbler consists of a drum mounted above a vibratory motor that circulates and polishes the brass using corncob or walnut tumbling media. Media treated with a polishing compound helps remove tarnish and bring brass to near factory-original condition.

To clean with a vibratory tumbler, pour the dry media into the tub, add the dirty brass, turn the motor on and wait a few hours. After an hour, the dirt is gone; a few more hours improve its luster – it all depends on how shiny you like your brass. The brass is then separated from the media. A built-in sifter lid on some models makes this process easier by removing most of the media. A dedicated media separator is a nice upgrade, removing more media, minimizing spillage and containing the dust. Dry tumbling creates static and dust from the cleaning process clings to the outside of each case. It's important to wipe it off to finish the process.

One decision before cleaning the case is whether to remove the primer or leave it in. Removing spent primers first allows the cleaning media to scour the primer pocket of carbon. However, grains of tumbling media can wedge inside the flash hole. This adds an extra step of poking media out after tumbling. Primer pockets may need a final cleanup with a primer pocket cleaning tool. I've opted to tumble first and then decap and clean the primer pockets in a separate operation; the decapping pin pokes trapped media out of the flash hole.

Dry tumbling media needs to be replaced periodically. One of the drawbacks of this method is that as the media cleans, it slowly turns into finer and finer dust, eventually losing its cleaning power. The media is relatively inexpensive, and thriftier people will use crushed walnut shells (pet bedding sold in bulk) and add their own polishing compounds to it. I stick with brand-name tumbling media. In a pinch, white rice works as a cleaning medium, but once done, discard it in a place where animals won't find it because it'll be contaminated with lead.

Adding a used dryer sheet into the drum helps cut down on the static and traps some of the dust. I've also learned from experience that mixing different cartridge types (9mm and .45ACP, for example) causes the smaller brass to stick inside the larger. Keep things separate, and you won't have this problem.

Despite its popularity, there are several drawbacks to using vibratory tumblers; mainly, they are loud and dusty (dust that contains lead). Using them in the garage is a good idea as it keeps the noise and lead hazard out of your living space. Dry media typically doesn't clean as well as more mod-

ern methods and removes moderate amounts of carbon from inside the case. Interestingly, some shooters prefer this method because a little internal carbon fouling allows easier bullet seating than new brass or cartridges cleaned with other methods.

ULTRASONIC CLEANING

An ultrasonic cleaning machine converts sound energy into a mechanical vibration that is transmitted to the cleaning liquid in a tank, creating micro-bubbles. The vibrating bubbles separate dirt from the surface of the object. Popular across many industries, ultrasonic cleaners are widely used in the firearms industry for removing carbon on firearms parts and, yes, also for cleaning brass. Dirty brass is placed in a basket inside the tank and suspended in the cleaning solution. The water in the tank is often pre-heated to aid the cleaning process. After that, the ultrasonic bubbles do their work.

Ultrasonic cleaners have several advantages over dry media tumbling. They don't produce hazardous dust, are quieter, clean the inside of the case and are faster; reloaders can have a batch of clean brass in about 10 to 15 minutes. As a bonus, shooters can use ultrasonic cleaners to scrub carbon-caked bolts, muzzle breaks and other firearms parts. If you go this route, be sure to get a cleaning solution designed for cleaning metal parts because it will contain rust inhibitors.

Ultrasonic machines come in many sizes. Before buying one, it's a good idea to determine the number of cases you need to process per batch. Remember that in the time it takes to clean a large batch with dry media, you can run several ultrasonic batches.

Drawbacks? Well, ultrasonic cleaners require water, which is unwelcome in many reloading rooms. After cleaning, the brass must be dried completely before reloading, so there's a bit of a waiting time. To speed the drying process, dump the drained brass onto a large absorbent towel and pat off the excess water. Then transfer them to a case dryer (similar to a food dehydrator) dedicated to this job. If you have an air compressor, a simpler method is to give each case a puff of air, which accelerates the drying process.

Adding a detergent to the tank water aids the cleaning process, making it work faster. Ultrasonic manufacturers sell specific cleaners that do an excellent job, or you can experiment with one of the homemade cleaning solution recipes found online (your mileage may vary).

WET TUMBLING

Are you looking for a modern recipe for ultra-clean brass? Combine dirty brass, water, cleaning solution and steel pins inside a drum. Next, place the drum on the tumbler and run it for two to four hours. Drain the excess liquid and sift the remaining brass to remove steel pins. Place the brass in a case dryer and reload when ready.

Wet tumblers are a bit fiddly but well worth the effort if you love like-new brass. The scrubbing action of the pins and cleaning solution together does a thorough job on the inside and outside of the cartridge case. Just like with ultrasonic cleaners, brass from the wet tumbler must be dried before use.

For optimal results, wet tumblers require a cleaning solution. Manufacturers make specific detergent mixtures, but many reloaders who use this method swear by a squirt of Dawn dish soap and a dash of Lemi Shine (the amounts vary widely among reloaders).

Many reloaders are upgrading to wet tumblers because of outstanding results. Who doesn't like perfectly shiny brass? But oddly enough, a few rifle shooters have returned to dry tumbling because the wet tumblers made their brass "too clean." After all the carbon is stripped off, the bare brass lacks the lubricity of slightly fouled cases. They found bullet seating less consistent and, as a result, switched back.

PARTING THOUGHTS

I haven't met a shooter who argues that clean brass isn't important. But opinions differ when it comes to the cleaning methods. And how shiny is enough? Some simply clean brass with a soft cloth and call it good; others scrub the cartridges until they are down to the bare brass for an ultra-shiny look. No matter your methods, clean brass gives the reloaders a chance to inspect fired brass for defects and toss those pieces that may cause problems during reloading and firing.

Keep calm and tumble (or bubble) on!

The goal is brass which is bright, shiny and clean.

FUNCTIONAL FIREARM BEAUTY

Unraveling the mystery of colour case hardening

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER

I find it fascinating that some of the manufacturing processes which have long been used out of necessity are still in practice despite the original driver for that process having disappeared. The purpose of the process is no longer required, yet some incidental outcome is still desirable.

It's like sauerkraut, bacon and goose confit. The combination of modern refrigeration and access to the global supply chain removes any need to use these ancient methods of food preservation. The method of preservation is no longer relevant. However, the flavour of bacon, the tang of cured cabbage and the luxuriously complex flavour of confit cannot be achieved without using these ancient processes. I suspect some readers could do without sauerkraut, but it's unlikely bacon will disappear anytime soon. Damascus knife blades are another example and so is colour case hardening. These are processes which are no longer required, yet plenty of firearm enthusiasts desire the beautiful swirls and colours they produce.

BIG HORN AMORY

WHAT IS COLOUR CASE HARDENING?

At its most basic level, case hardening is the process of making the surface of iron parts more durable. The case hardening process facilitates the transfer of carbon into the metal surface, making the outer one-thousandths- to three-thousandths-of-an-inch of material much harder. This improves the function and extends the life of firearm parts like hammers, frames and receivers. The exterior colour we see is simply a side outcome of the hardening process. At first, this discolouration was undesirable, but over time that colour became one of the outcomes gun owners developed a hankering for.

HISTORY

From somewhere around the 10th century until the mid to late 1800s, firearms were made of soft materials out of necessity, simply because that was the only material available. Some of the earliest firearms were made of bamboo and eventually bronze. When iron became available as the accepted norm for the metal from which to build firearms, it was relatively soft, ductile and not particularly wear resistant. The colour case hardening process was developed to harden the outer surface of the iron. This involved packing the iron with a high-carbon material, such as charred leather or bone and wood charcoal and heating the material. Carbon molecules moved from the high-carbon packing into the outer surface of the iron. This would turn into a thin, hard layer on the exterior of the soft iron or mild steel. After better-quality steels came into common use in the late 1800s, it was no longer necessary to colour case harden firearms, but because of the traditional vintage look of the outcome of the process, it's in demand today – just like bacon.

HOW IT'S DONE

I can tell you that researching this article was a bit of a challenge. Everyone who provides colour case hardening services is reluctant to share very much about the actual steps and details of the process. It feels like what I imagine young Harry Potter faced in learning how to concoct potions and not one wizard would share the full recipe. It seems that colour case hardening is a bit of wizardry.

George Tillman, co-owner of Wyoming Armory Precision Firearms in Cody, Wyo., says the hardening process starts with packing the iron parts in a high-carbon material, such as charred leather or charcoal. His crew packs a combination of wood charcoal ›

Great care must be taken to protect parts from warping during the hardening process.

and bone charcoal in a stainless-steel crucible. All of this is brought up to a high temperature and held there until the carbon migrates from the charcoal into the outer surface of the steel. After being held at a high temperature for the prescribed time, the whole works is dumped into an aerated cold-water quench. The change is instantaneous. When you pull the heat-treated pieces out of the cold water, you see the various beautiful colour patterns on the steel.

Here is a collection of steps to the actual process gleaned from discussions with the colour case hardening wizards:

1. Anneal and polish parts to be treated with 400 grit.
2. Clean the parts, removing grease.
3. Pack the parts with the charcoal magic mix in the crucible.
4. Heat the crucible to 1,300 to 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit.
5. Hold the temperature for about 120 minutes to allow the transfer of carbon.
6. When the process is complete, dump contents into aerated cold water.
7. Expect an explosion-like reaction when all the hot metal and charcoal pieces hit the cold water.
8. Temper in the oven for about 60 minutes.
9. Polish and reassemble.

Wyoming Armory Precision Firearms provides bone charcoal colour case hardened options for Bighorn Armory's new firearms, the Model 89 and Model 90 receivers. The option adds $1,500 US to the price. Wyoming Armory also does bone charcoal colour case hardening on restoration projects, to restore the original colours on those firearms. However, there are some difficulties in colour case hardening modern steel, so they've developed some special techniques to get traditional colours on steel, which already has a high carbon content. Check out their website at www.wyomingarmory.com.

ABOVE: A beautiful restoration by Sean McQuire of www.oldguns.ca.

BELOW: No two colour case hardening patterns are the same.

MODERN DEMAND

As you'd expect, there are kits available for the person wanting to try this themselves. Brownells, the world's largest supplier of gunsmith products, has one (not in stock as I write this) for close to $600 USD. Of course, there's an entire collection of things that can go wrong during the colour case hardening process. For example, not enough heat for not enough time leaves the metal lacking colour because the process of carbon transfer didn't happen. With too much heat for too long, the metal becomes brittle. Also, modern steels can flake when hardened. I suspect warping of the metal may even be a problem.

My advice to firearms owners that want restoration work completed is to do their homework and find a reliable professional to do this. Check references and talk with folks who have had the kind of work done that you are looking for, asking about their level of satisfaction with the process and the outcome.

The most common demand today for the colour case hardening process is for restoration projects. Understandably, owners of fine old firearms in good repair desire to have the finish restored. Modern metallurgy means we are well beyond the need for this process, but fans of colour case hardening are after the aesthetics. Like bacon and sauerkraut, some of us are still attached to the outcome of processes no longer required.

SEAN MCQUIRE X2

HUNTING WITH A HANDGUN CARTRIDGE

The .44 Remington Magnum in a rifle

BY JEFF SMITH

TOP: The Marlin 1894 and Ruger 77/44 are both good hunting rifles.

BOTTOM: Originally developed for handguns, the 44 Remington Magnum reaches its full potential in a rifle.

Developed in 1955 and introduced to the public in 1956, development of the 44 Remington Magnum is credited to American shooter and writer Elmer Keith. Touted at that time as the most powerful handgun cartridge in the world, it was chambered by Smith & Wesson in the Model 29 revolver. Later, Ruger chambered it in the Blackhawk revolver. While both these handguns are fine hunting arms, neither can be used for that in Canada.

This does not, however, take the 44 Rem Mag out of the hunting picture here, as it has been chambered in several excellent carbines. Given its limited effective range, the cartridge is an excellent choice to use in brush country where the ranges tend to be short, often less than 100 metres. A second drawback to hunting with the 44 Rem Mag is that some jurisdictions have ammunition or case length restrictions, so beware of your provincial rules.

There are a few new carbines in this chambering currently available from Ruger, Henry and Chiappa. Other good choices can be found on the used market and they include the Marlin 1894, Winchester 94 and Ruger's 96/44 and 44 Carbine. It is hoped that Ruger will bring back the Marlin 1894 in the near future, but the others are long discontinued.

By using a carbine, you can increase downrange velocity by several hundred feet per second, with the longer barrel allowing the cartridge to reach its full potential. The Ruger M77/44 and Marlin 1894 are both easily scoped. If one prefers open sights, the lever guns can simply be fitted with quality aperture sights like those from Skinner Sights, and the longer sighting plane increases accuracy.

Choices in factory ammunition are good, with all the major manufacturers offering hunting loads. Most commonly found are 240-grain JHP bullets designed for hunting deer. As well, you can find 265-grain and 305-grain loads well suited to hunting bear, especially over bait. Occasionally, you can locate 180-grain loads. I sometimes use these for plinking and rabbit hunting. I have taken coyotes with the new 200-grain Hornady Handgun Hunter ammunition with great results out to 85 yards. The round kills them instantly, with no exit wound. Another good cartridge from Hornady is their LEVERevolution. It has a soft-tipped bullet suitable for use in tube magazines and allows ethical shots out to around 150 metres.

Felt recoil from the big 44, while stiff, is more of a push into the shoulder than a punch, and smaller framed, young or female shooters should be able to handle most ammunition choices. Some guns produce more felt recoil than others, with the worst in my experience being the Winchester 94. One concern worth noting is that in lever guns, the lever can rap the shooter hard across the knuckles, especially in my Marlin 1894. However, a larger loop tends to alleviate the issue. Overall, my favourite rifle has been the Ruger 77/44 bolt-action.

With practice, there is no reason not to hunt with the 44 Rem Mag where legal. With the use of quality factory ammunition or handloads with a jacketed hollow point, jacketed soft point or hard cast bullet, this round will fill your tag if you do your part. Barnes even offers a lead-free bullet load.

REVIEWING A RETAY

Retay's Gordion Extra Black SP

BY JEFF HELSDON

With the many options available for Turkish semi-automatic shotguns, it can be difficult to find one that stands out. However, the guns manufactured by Retay are worth a look.

Retay was founded in 2006, the same year Benelli's patent on the inertia locking system expired, and by no coincidence they specialize in inertia-system semi-auto shotguns. The company completes design and manufacturing in Konya, Turkey, and stresses producing quality guns via strict quality control processes. Although the company isn't new, Korth Group recently took over importing and is promoting the line here in Canada.

FEATURES & SPECIFICATIONS

My test gun was a Gordion Extra Black SP with a synthetic stock and a 26-inch barrel. Longer barrel guns are available for waterfowlers, as are numerous finish options. This inertia-operated semi-auto arrived in a synthetic case, disassembled into two pieces. I initially found it tricky to assemble the barrel to the receiver, but once I realized it was necessary to rotate the bolt slightly, it went together easily. Of course, if I had read the instructions, it would have been really simple, but I like to test the simplicity before looking at the directions by trying to figure it out – at least, that's what I tell myself.

Disassembly of the action is one of the simplest I have seen. Remove the bolt handle and the bolt will literally slide out. It's so slick, doing this with the action pointed downward in the marsh would send it for a dunk. The trigger assembly was a change from the synthetic seen so often these days as it's all metal.

Instead of typical hammer-forged barrels, Retay barrels are cut from 4140 steel through a process called deep bore drilling that involves cutting the bore from one piece of steel. All barrels have factory-lengthened forcing cones. A typical 8mm hunting rib is capped off with a single red fiber optic bead. The barrel is chrome lined and looks smooth to the eye. The receiver has a dovetail on it for scope mounting if used as a turkey gun.

The action on all Retay models features the company's Inertia Plus bolt system. Besides the typical inertia piston and rotating bolt, it improves upon other designs by allowing the bolt to be closed quietly, resulting in no bolt rattle or risk of out-of-battery misfires. Shells can be unloaded from the magazine without working the bolt. This gun handles 2 3/4 and 3-inch shells only, with recoil mitigation handled by a recoil pad made of microcell polyurethane with a soft, spongy feel to it – a good thing, in my opinion.

The Gordion ships with five chokes, with Retay's proprietary thread in 12 gauge and Benelli's Crio/Crio Plus in 20 gauge. The chokes are Retay's Marapro design, with constriction signified by printing on the choke and slots in the end. Provided chokes are cylinder, improved cylinder, modified, improved modified and full.

HANDLING

The gun balances just slightly ahead of where the bolt handle sits when closed. This gives it a nice feel and it throws up neatly. Combined with the slim forend that inertia guns typically have, and the six-pound, eight-ounce weight, the Gordion handles like it's a 20 gauge.

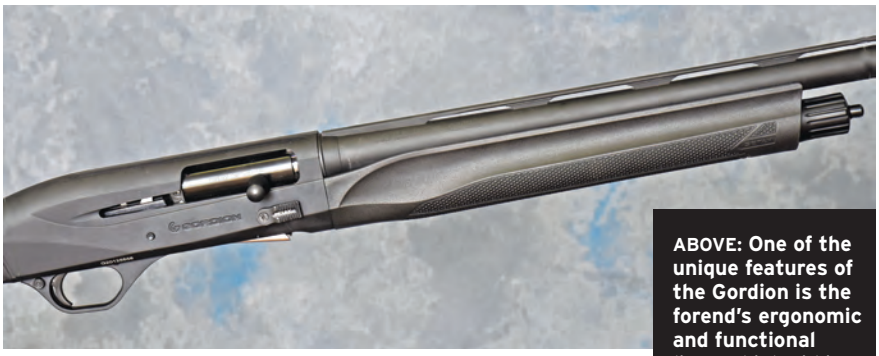
It ships with an adjustable shim set and sling swivel mounts. While the sling mount on the forend cap is typical, the one moulded in the stock is a neat, semi-recessed design.

The trigger had absolutely no creep and released at 5.5 to 6.5 pounds. It wasn't a rifle trigger, but few shotguns are. The bolt release is oversized, as is the bolt handle. The safety is not oversized though and is actually a little on the small side. It is about the size often seen on semi-automatic .22s and is smaller, for instance, than the safety on my Winchester 1300, which is pushing 30 years old. Then again, many other shotguns are the same.

The gun has sleek lines to it. The forend has styling to the necessary curves and grips which flow into a

moulded line on both sides of the single-piece aluminum receiver. I found the forend fit well in my hands, with the recesses in natural spots for a good grip. Seeking input on the gun's styling from my daughter, to get a view from the younger generation, her first impression was, "Cool." When she picked it up, she thought the gun was light and handled well.

The bolt release is also integral to unloading the magazine without cycling the bolt. The user turns the gun upside down, pushes the feed ramp down, and pulls out slightly on the bolt release to unload the magazine's shells.



ABOVE: One of the unique features of the Gordion is the forend's ergonomic and functional lines which aid in a solid grip.

LEFT: To disassemble the Gordion, remove the bolt handle with the barrel off and the bolt assembly will slide out. The trigger group is then removed by punching out one pin.

TRIGGER TIME

Shooting the gun on clays, I found it performed flawlessly with regular 1-ounce and 1 1/8-ounce loads. However, feeding it low-recoil 1-ounce Clever loads didn't go as smoothly. The manual states this is normal and corrects itself after shooting a few boxes of higher-recoiling loads through it. Despite my best efforts to do this by pulling together a duck hunt with the gun, it didn't happen, so I wasn't able verify this. I will note my Beretta semi-auto handles the Clever loads fine, but it has had several boxes through it of waterfowl loads and tested more turkey shells than most guns have shot. Other inertia semi-autos also struggle with the light Clever loads.

I only tried the Retay at the trap range, as it is the easiest for me to access. After a couple of boxes of shells, I found the recoil was quite manageable. It's certainly not an ideal trap gun, and combined with me struggling with different shell types, I didn't shoot my best scores with it. But when I took this gun on a pheasant hunt, it really shone. There were a couple of situations requiring quicker-than-normal instinctive shooting and I was quite impressed with how the gun handled and was where it needed to be when I pulled the trigger.

At a manufacturer's suggested retail price of $969, this is a lot of value for the money. The Gordion line includes camouflage and wood stock models, with prices ranging up to $1,149.

If you are looking for a quick-handling, light upland semi-automatic, the Retay Gordion would be a good choice. Although I didn't try the longer barrel guns, they may also be great for a waterfowl gun.

With a 26-inch barrel, the Gordion is light and quick handling, making for a great upland gun.

Become an NFA FIELD OFFICER

Are you a firearms activist
eager to make a difference
and fight to protect gun owners' rights?

Volunteer and join our leadership team today!

FIELD OFFICER PROGRAM:
1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca

NFA | CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

Devenez AGENT DE TERRAIN NFA

Êtes-vous un(e) activiste voulant faire une différence et se battre pour protéger les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu?

Joignez-vous à notre équipe de bénévoles dès aujourd'hui!

PROGRAMME AGENTS DE TERRAIN

1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca

NFA | CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

C-21 FALLOUT

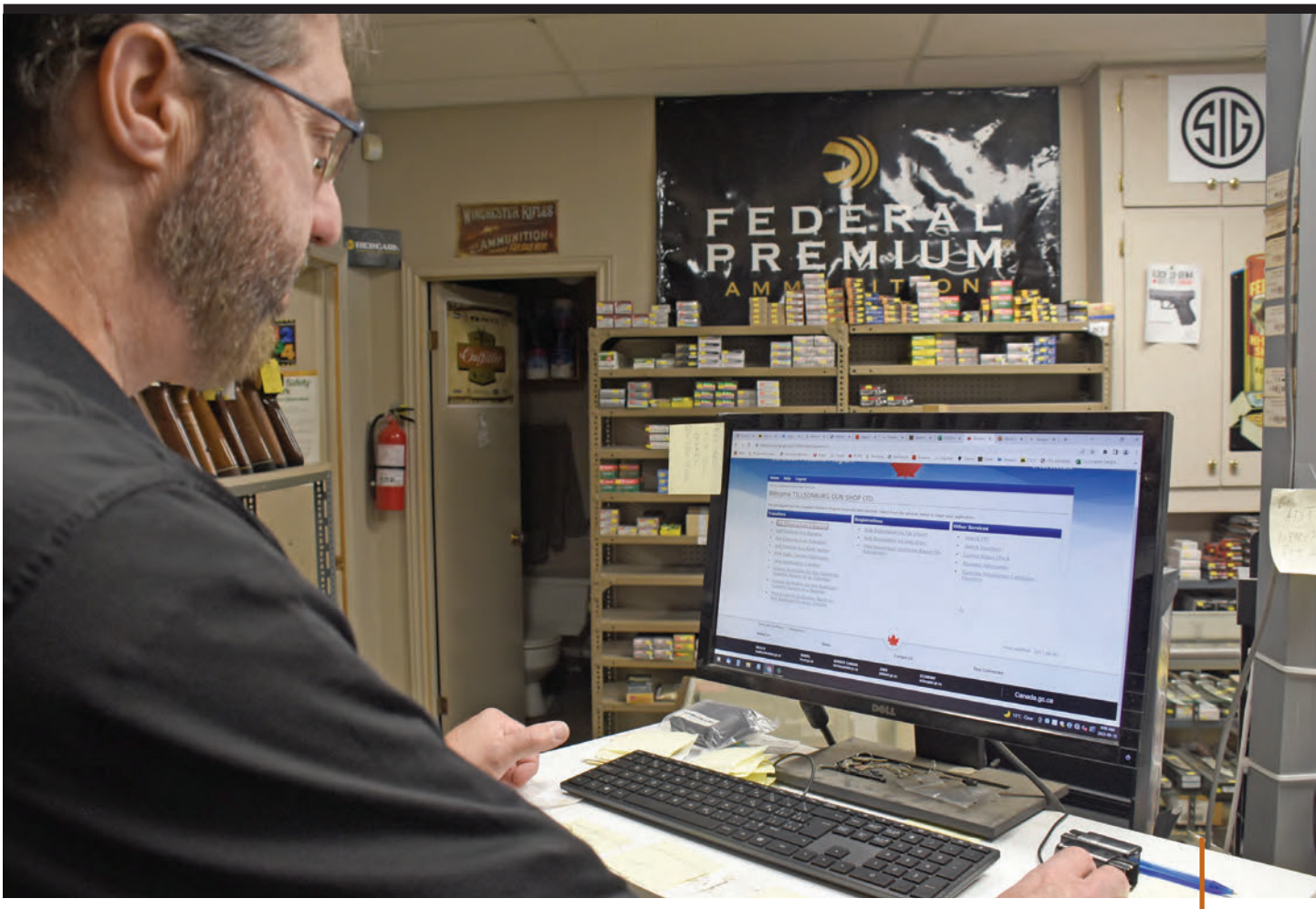
Firearms community scrambles to learn new transfer system

BY JEFF HELSDON

ISTOCK

Canadian gun owners and dealers were left scrambling to learn a new transfer system and deal with a huge increase in sales of restricted guns in the wake of the latest changes by the Liberal government in late May. Bill C-21 introduced a freeze on sales of restricted guns in Canada, followed by a ban on new imports in August. The resulting surge in handgun sales left retailers with little unsold stock, but a long wait to get authorizations for the transfers.

The new transfer process for non-restricted guns now involves the need for a transfer reference number to verify that the buyer's PAL is valid for both private and business transactions. Retailers also must keep a registry of all firearms they sell, which



The new transfer process for non-restricted guns now involves the need for a transfer reference number to verify the buyer's PAL is valid.

is only accessible by police.

Wes Winkel, president of the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association (CSAAA), said the changes are creating massive confusion, which can result in people breaking the law unknowingly.

"So many people aren't aware they need these numbers for a transfer," he said. "Right now, there are private transactions across the country and people are violating the law but they're doing so because they don't know what the law is."

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

Retailers with customers bringing in guns for trade have the additional hassle that they can't put guns in their inventory until the customer gets a transfer number. CSAAA has made requests of the federal government for more than a month to extend the hours at the Firearms Centre and to address the problems.

Justin Faulkner, manager of The Gun Dealer in McAdam, NB, compared the purchase system from a retailer's standpoint to that when the former gun registry was in place. He explained the transfer is good for more than one non-restricted gun and no information is relayed to the Firearms Centre on what was purchased, but he does have to keep a record.

The issue he has seen is many customers have multiple e-mails, or changed e-mail, and don't know which one is on file with the RCMP. This situation, or being flagged, necessitates a phone call to the Firearms Centre, which is only open Monday to Friday. Faulkner said back in the days of the registry, the Firearms Centre was open Saturdays.

"It actually went smoother back in 2012," he said.

If a customer is flagged, for any number of reasons, it can take up to two weeks to generate a reference number. In the case of The Gun Dealer, which is in a rural community, customers often drive out on a weekend and then have to pay for shipping or come back once the issue is sorted out and a reference number is generated.

In addition, a purchase now requires visually seeing the PAL and one other piece of government ID.

"It's definitely slowed the process down," Faulkner said. "This doesn't do anything to impact crime."

In Ontario, Tillsonburg Gun Shop co-owner Marc David said obtaining the transfer reference number hasn't been terrible, although he doesn't like the fact he has to do it. There have been some referrals and many instances of customers coming in on Saturdays, having an issue and then not being unable to resolve it because the Firearms Centre is closed. He also cited issues with Amish customers who don't have e-mails and not being able to get through to the Firearms Centre by phone when handgun sales were crazy. David said he has lost sales due to the changes and noted

there is inconsistency in the rules.

Randy Simonneau, co-owner of Sights and Arms Ltd. in St. Albert, Alta., has had mixed experiences getting authorizations for non-restricted guns.

"It's kind of a silly thing," he said. "They are just adding another layer to bureaucracy. The website is not always up and running. We've had to sell the gun and customer has had to come back later to pick it up."

HANDGUNS CLEANED OUT

Bill C-21's freeze on handgun sales resulted in huge spikes in handgun sales as those with restricted PALs purchased additional handguns.

Frustrated Ontario residents unable to get through to the Canadian Firearms Centre, on both restricted and non-restricted issues, started phoning the Chief Firearms Office, which is run by the Ontario Provincial Police. Winkel was told the CFO is north of 20,000 transfer certificates behind. Retailers were told there could be a waiting period of 100 to 150 days. This means if someone bought a gun in mid-June, it could take until September or November before they can take possession of it.

GUN SHOWS IN DISARRAY

Richard Dykstra, owner of Creekside Gun Shop in Wainfleet, and owner of the Woodstock gun show, cancelled the show planned for July due to the confusion. He planned to get things going again in November after things are more stable. He saw a 50 per cent decrease in both attendees and vendors at the first show after C-21 came into effect.

"It's really affecting individual dealers," he said. "The government portal is unreliable and older dealers don't have cell phones and iPads. Government rolled out a program they didn't know anything about. They didn't add staff and didn't roll out a program that works."

A CHECK

Hearing all the stories about the back-up on the phone lines, which I have seen previously for other reasons, I thought I would place a call to the Canadian Firearms Centre and ask a question about the new system. I got through in about two minutes.

Then I looked into how the new system worked for transferring non-restricted long guns. I don't have a Government of Canada key, so I signed in through my bank (sign-in partner). I found my e-mail address was an old one and changed it with no problem. I then filled out the necessary forms to sell a firearm to a friend. It worked no problem.

Do I question that gun store owners across the country are exaggerating? Definitely not! I did try in the first week of July when things may have been less hectic. I also noted gun dealers said the system worked sporadically, so maybe I got lucky. Overall, gun owners aren't so lucky, and we'll see what comes next with the restrictions on magazine capacity for long guns.

Gun shop owners are reporting lost sales due to the changes, as well as inconsistency in the rules.

REPRODUCING HISTORY

A period-correct scope mount for a No.1 Mk. III sniper

BY WAYNE TELLIER

DO IT YOURSELF

A few years ago, after my wife's mother passed away, some of her possessions came to our house to be stored. Among them was a cardboard box labeled, Army. Inside the box we found several items from her father's time in the First World War. He was Sydney Charles Ward (1893 to 1971), born in Pavenham, Bedfordshire, England, and with his brother, Percy, from Meanook (Minook), Alta., volunteered and joined the 202 Sportsman's Battalion from Edmonton, Alta.

The box's contents included keepsakes from his time in the Great War, including a pair of battle dress jackets, a flag which I cannot identify, a gas mask of the type the Germans wore and a rifle scope. All the items are interesting, but the rifle scope really caught my eye. It was wrapped in a plastic bag and in very good condition. As I examined the scope, I discovered it's a 1915 Periscopic Prism Company scope, made in England, and so I began researching to see what I could find out about it.

I learned the use of optics on rifles, and sniping in particular, was initially something the British rejected as a fair or noble way to fight. Consequently, they had no dedicated snipers and no sniper training. It wasn't until they received reports of a higher-than-normal incidence of head shots that they realized the Germans didn't share their values. Therefore, as the war progressed, so did the need to find men familiar with long-range marksmanship. Enter the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

The British army had no program set up for sniping and when they started to look for qualified men, they took advantage of the young Canadians who knew how to shoot and hunt. These men knew bushcraft, stalking and patience; it's how I imagine the scope came into Sydney's possession.

RESEARCH

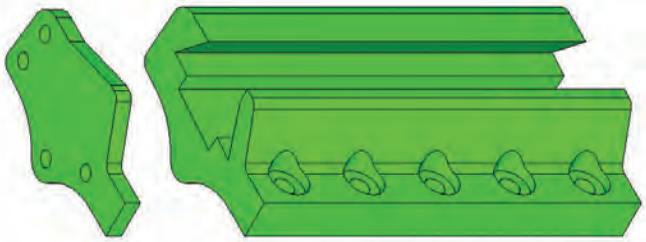
So, now I wanted to do something fitting with this scope, which is quite complex for the day, with about 2.5X magnification and windage, elevation and parallax adjustments. No, it's not a great optic by today's standards, but this is what the British had, and they are behind in the sniping war. The Germans had the best optics and were sniping for some time, so the British needed to get with the program.

My research indicates about 5,000 Periscopic Prism scopes were made for use during the First World War. They were fitted to Small Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE) rifles selected for accuracy and mounted using an offset removable base by some of England's best gunsmiths. This system was one of the earliest iterations for a scoped sniper rifle during the First World War, as it was soon replaced with the over-the-barrel mounting style we are familiar with today.

As much as I'd like to find the original rifle and its base to remount this scope, I know it's highly unlikely. But in case you have a 1915 vintage SMLE, it would be stamped with the same number as the scope (F1790). Please check your SMLE for me and contact the editor if you've got it.

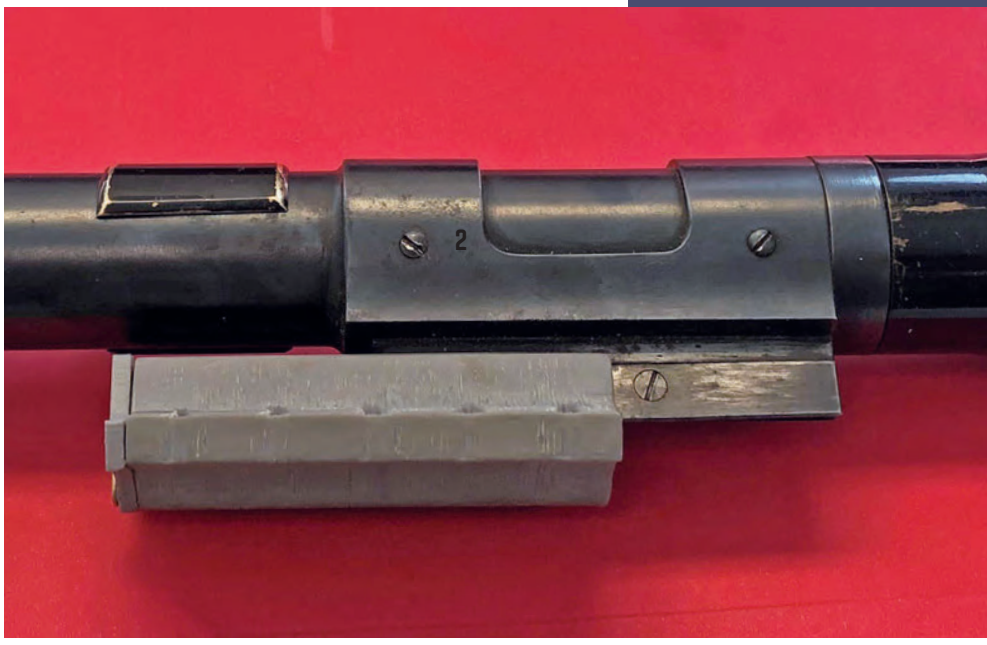
The only reasonable option to get this scope shooting again was to find a period-correct rifle, fabricate the missing mount and wed the three pieces together. Determining that my build should be as accurate as possible, I began researching. It led me to a collector in England, Dr. Rodger Pane, who has several of these scoped rifles and has made up some receiver mounts for them. This is great,

I thought, as he could make up a mount for me based off an original and all I'd have to do is find a SMLE in full military configuration and mount it. Easy. But unfortunately, his machinist just passed away, and he'd have to find someone else to make one for me. This sounded like it would take much longer than I was willing to wait, so I felt it necessary to look to my own resources and see what I could come up with. I know myself well enough that I would lose interest if I didn't just push ahead with this.



LEFT: After a lot of measuring, a CADD drawing of the base was created.

BELOW: A plastic version of the base made with a 3D printer.



THE BUILD

First, I found as many photos of this rifle and mount as I could. Since I'm a certified engineering technologist and quite proficient with CADD, I measured, scaled and puzzled on how this might be made. I created a digital model of the part I needed and printed it off on a 3D printer. I tried the dovetail on the scope and adjusted it until I had something that at least looked right.

This was the easy part. I now had a plastic part which looked correct and is the right offset for the scope, but my scope was mounted to fit only one rifle and that rifle is lost. So, I redesigned my base to fit my 1915 SMLE rifle. I spent almost a year looking for a rifle for this build, and if you were on Canadian Gun-Nutz, I'm the guy who always wanted to know the year stamped on the wristband of your rifle. Eventually, I purchased a sporterized SMLE 1918 to sacrifice so I could figure out how to machine the receiver to accept the new scope base, and finally I came across a 1915 SMLE rifle in full military configuration; it even has the magazine cutoff intact.

Next, I found a very competent machinist who was able to take my 3D CADD file and code a CNC milling machine to make my small but complex part. We also made a couple of end pieces used to capture the scope and prevent it from sliding forward after a shot was fired. Then we drilled and tapped the base and added a flat spring and catch to complete the capture and release mechanism.

I spent quite a bit of time fitting this to the receiver to get as close a fit as I'm capable of, then epoxied it to the receiver and fitted the scope to it. Next, I fiddled with the scope to learn all its adjustments, finding that this 100-plus-year-old optic is very robust.

NO TURNING BACK

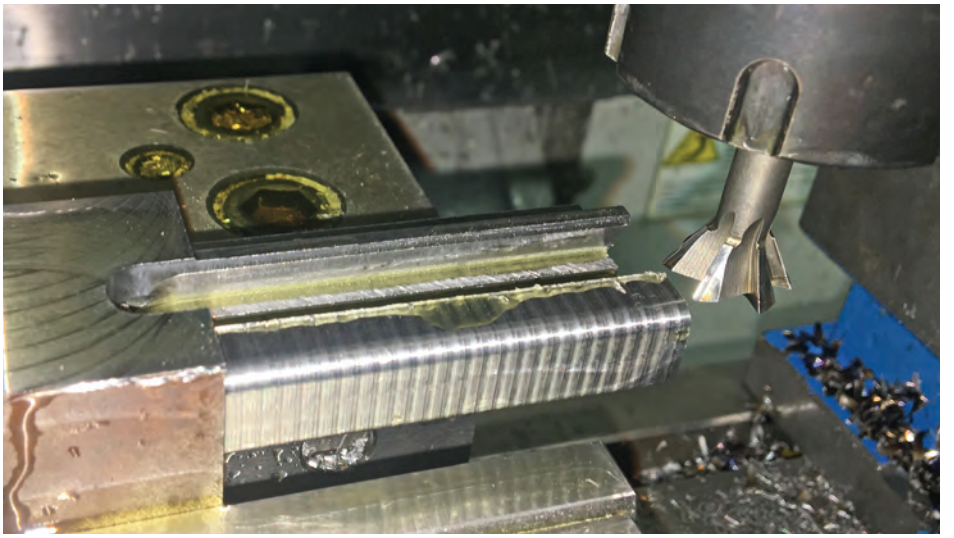
Once I felt I could make any sighting-in adjustment with the scope itself, I attached it to the receiver with epoxy a final time and convinced myself that drilling into the receiver of my $900 rifle was okay. Trust me, I didn't sleep for some time, in fear I would diminish this rifle's value too much. I ordered screws from Brownell's to match the original filister head screws as close as I could and, using a friend's milling machine, drilled and tapped it to the receiver.

So now I have what looks like a First World War sniper rifle. But this is not a wall hanger, this is a rifle that I planned to shoot. I found some ball ammunition from the 1970s and with a friend went to my local range where the end plate and screws used to hold the scope in the dovetail quickly sheared off. After three rounds, the recoil busted off this endcap and I was done for the day. I looked at the parts and was disappointed. I have read that the screws shearing off was an inherent problem with this mount. At this point, I feared that maybe it just needed to look the part and having it function was too much to hope for. However, I tried a much thicker end plate and added beefier screws, hoping they could contain the inertial forces.

Subsequent trips to the range have shown it to be able to hold up to the recoil. Now accuracy is the issue. I'm reloading for this rifle and have shimmed the scope to make it more rigid. The result has been moderate success and a lot of fun learning how to shoot this rifle. The offset scope design was to allow for the use of stripper clips when reloading in combat, but most early snipers shot from behind a vertically slotted piece

of steel known as a loophole, and the offset scope design meant the sniper's view was impeded as the slot was too narrow for the shooter to see through it. Later, scopes were mounted directly over the barrel, aligning the axis of the scope and rifle barrel, making long-distance shooting more precise.

This Periscopic Prism scope is an amazing piece of history, and I'm fortunate to have come across one. However, I can't imagine using this in war. It leaves me so grateful to those who did and gave so much for us.



TOP: Making the part on a CNC mill programmed via the CADD drawing.

RIGHT: After hand fitting and some temporay epoxy, the base is drilled and tapped to the rifle's receiver.

BELOW: The finished piece. The red arrow indicates the original end cap which sheared off in recoil.

SANTA'S GUN JOY

Christmas gifts for gun owners

BY AL VOTH

Since this issue of the Canadian Firearms Journal covers the Christmas season, here are some gift ideas that might help Santa put goodies under the tree which will be more useful and appreciated than a new pair of socks.

HORNADY POWDER FUNNEL KIT

A relatively new product from Hornady is their Premium Powder Funnel Kit. It includes a non-static aluminum funnel, with nine calibre-specific adapters which screw onto the bottom of the funnel. The adapters are in the following sizes: 224, .243/6mm, .257, .264/6.5mm, .277, .284/7mm, .308, .338 and .375. Everything comes in a padded case where all the pieces can be stored and protected. I've been using it for most of a year and it's been a classy addition to the handloading bench. I'd like to see adapter sizes in .17, .40 and .45 calibres, as well as a universal long drop tube, but as is it certainly takes care of the vast majority of chores requiring a powder funnel. The quality is superb and the price is reasonable at about $70 CAD. I see it's being stocked by many Canadian gun shops, so it should be easily available.

FORSTER NECK TENSION GAUGE

A useful product for precision handloaders is Forster's new Neck Tension Gauge. It consists of a shaft with four precision-machined steps in .001-inch increments, mounted to a screwdriver-like handle. It's designed to be used after neck sizing, but before bullet seating, to determine how much neck tension exists in the cartridge case. By carefully sliding it into a case neck, it's easy to determine if the inside neck diametre of a batch of cases is uniform. It'll also reveal the presence of "donuts" forming at the neck shoulder junction. I've been using one in .264/6.5mm and it's been an enlightening exercise, with several cartridge cases being rejected for accuracy work in my 6.5 Creedmoor precision rifle. It's available for the five bore sizes most commonly used in precision shooting: .224, .243, .264, .284 and .308. Price is about $65 CAD for a single tool or $330 CAD for the complete set of five. You'll probably have to go online for this item as it's so specialized not every gun shop has them. X-reload.com is a good Canadian option.

TTRIGGER DRY FIRE DEVICE

Learning to shoot a handgun well is difficult, with dry firing being some of the best training a person can do to improve skills. It's one of the reasons why I like revolvers so much, as they can be dry fired endlessly without picking up any training scars. Glock pistols, as great as they are, suffer from the thing which ails most semi-auto pistols in that they can't be dry fired realistically. This is because the slide has to be at least partially cycled for each shot in order for the trigger to reset. That can lead to bad habits very quickly. One solution to this problem is the TTrigger. It fits in the magazine well of a Glock pistol and allows repeated realistic trigger manipulation without cycling the slide. I've been using one for several months now and it's a slick and simple solution to dry firing a Glock. To use the device, simply ensure the gun is unloaded and then slide the TTrigger into the magazine well, pull the trigger once to set the device, then dry fire away. The trigger pull feel isn't quite the same as what the shooter experiences without the device in place, as the trigger movement is slightly different. However, the unit comes with two spring strengths which can be used to adjust the pull weight. On my Glock 22, for example, the heavier TTrigger spring comes close to duplicating its almost six-pound pull, while the lighter spring drops it closer to five pounds. Price is about $110 CAD and it's widely available at shops which cater to handgunners.

VSSL EMERGENCY KITS

Shooters and hunters should always have some kind of emergency kit available which is suitable for the activity being undertaken. VSSL is a Canadian company that has a unique spin on this basic requirement of outdoor activity. Their emergency kits come packed in an aluminum tube which, according to the inventor, was inspired by the large Maglite flashlights. The contents are placed into small tins which then slip inside the tube. The available options are too extensive to list here, but include coffee grinders, first aid kits, fire starters, survival fishing gear, a flask and repair kits. Perhaps the best part is that a customer can design their own kit, according to their specific needs. It's really necessary to visit their website at vsslgear.ca to see the vast selection of items they have available. I grabbed a first aid kit and a general-purpose survival kit, which will be accompanying me on hunts this fall. These things are waterproof, sturdily built and have plenty of options for contents. It's definitely one of those "Why didn't I think of this?" devices. You can find them at most well-equipped camping stores or order online. Prices range from $50 to $200 CAD.

FORSTER ACCU-RING DIE LOCK RING

Any handloader who has been frustrated by trying to adjust a reloading die lock ring just the right amount will appreciate this product. It's a standard lock ring as used on reloading dies, but with increments of .001-inch laser-marked on the ring. This ring is intended to replace the one that arrived with the die, and by placing a black dot on the threads with a felt pen, the handloader can screw the die in or out in precise amounts. It has application on sizing dies when trying get just the right amount of shoulder set back, on seating dies when getting bullet depth just right and on crimp dies when a precise amount of measured crimp is the goal. Price is about $15 CAD and I see hirschprecision.com has them available here in Canada.

FALCO LEATHER & NYLON GEAR

I recently had the opportunity to meet some folks from FALCO holsters, and it turned into a testimony about how international the gun trade has become. This is because FALCO is located in Europe, in the nation of Slovakia. Turns out the Slovaks like guns and hockey too. Who knew? In any case, FALCO is one of those firms that started in a garage and is now a thriving business producing leather and nylon gear for gun owners around the world. It's worth visiting their website at falcoholsters.com to see the wide array of products they make, many of them on a custom order basis. Pictured here is a shotgun belt they made for me as a custom order. It's an example of beautiful leatherwork and stitching with a green felt liner. Holding 20 shotshells and five rifle cartridges, the cost is just $65 USD. The other item is a padded nylon spotting scope case, complete with a couple of accessory pouches. Workmanship, again, is first class and it's about the same price as the shell belt. It takes three to four weeks to make a custom product and shipping is free and fast if the order total reaches a reasonable limit. If you value quality and that classic European look, there's a Christmas gift for any gun owner in their product line.

Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Concealed Carry In Canada

Pocketknives are not automatically regarded as weapons because they have other utilities.

Les couteaux de poche ne sont pas nécessairement considérés comme étant des armes, parce qu'ils ont d'autres utilités.

Canada does not allow concealed carry of a firearm, except in very limited circumstances. As a matter of fact, Canada does not allow concealed carry of any weapon, which includes a firearm, but is also much broader. Judging from my perusal of various Internet discussion forums, there seems to be a lot of confusion as to what is allowed; hence, the choice of concealed carry as the topic for this month's column.

WHAT DOES THE *CRIMINAL CODE* SAY?

I reproduce hereafter the relevant provision of the Criminal Code:

Carrying concealed weapon

• **90 (1)** Every person commits an offence who carries a weapon, a prohibited device or any prohibited ammunition concealed, unless the person is authorized under the *Firearms Act* to carry it concealed.

• **Marginal note: Punishment**

(2) Every person who commits an offence under subsection (1)

(a) is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years; or

(b) is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

WHAT ARE THE EXCEPTIONS?

One exception is holding an authorization to carry issued under the Firearms Act, but that authorization must specifically allow concealed carry. However, those are few and far between, to say the least. Another exception avails for public agents (such as police officers), who may be exempt pursuant to Section 117.07 of the *Criminal Code*.

WHAT IS A WEAPON?

"Weapon" is defined at Section 2 of the *Criminal Code*:

weapon means any thing used, designed to be used or intended for use

• **(a)** in causing death or injury to any person, or

• **(b)** for the purpose of threatening or intimidating any person and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, includes a firearm and, for the purposes 5 of Sections 88, 267 and 272, anything used, designed to be used or intended for use in binding or tying up a person against their will; (*arme*)

Thus, a firearm is always considered to be a weapon, irrespective of the purpose or context for which it is possessed or carried. This is true of any firearm, even those that do not require a license, such as low-velocity/low-energy airguns, that are capable of causing bodily injury. It also means that an unloaded firearm is always considered a weapon, irrespective of the availability of ammunition.

Besides firearms, certain items, such as brass knuckles, will also be considered as being weapons inherently, essentially because they have no other use than being used as weapons. Brass knuckles are also a prohibited device. Others, such as pocketknives, are not automatically

regarded as weapons because they have other utilities. Please note, however, that certain knives, such as switch blades, are prohibited devices.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CARRY?

Carrying is to be distinguished from transporting, which entails the use of a vehicle. However, carrying includes both having a weapon on one's person and having it in a portable receptacle, such as a handbag or a briefcase. What about having it in a gun case? After all, the law requires that restricted and certain prohibited firearms be transported in a gun case. There is a moment in time, both at the beginning and end of a home-to-range journey, where the gun case is carried to the vehicle, and out of the vehicle. Does one commit a criminal offence by merely following the law? Fortunately, the answer is no, per *R. v. Felawka*[1]:

"At a practical level, a gun case is a commonplace item that generally proclaims to all exactly what it is. In a great many instances, a gun case is sold with a hunting rifle or shotgun. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine that a gun owner would not transport his or her gun in a case to prevent it from rusting and eventually malfunctioning. A gun case is in the shape of the firearm and thus cannot be said to conceal the weapon. It could be argued that some of the cases for carrying expensive shotguns used for skeet shooting or trap shooting competitions more closely resemble a briefcase than a gun case. This may be, but these cases can and should be marked clearly as the carrying case for the shotgun. A gun in a case or tightly wrapped in canvas should not be considered to be hidden or concealed. It still looks like a gun and carried in that manner does not infringe the provisions of s. 89. (…)

"The regulations that cause greater difficulty are those that oblige the owner to place his gun in a trunk or luggage compartment -- a container that, from the outside, does not signal to the public the presence of a gun. Recently enacted federal regulations on the transportation of firearms stipulate that a person may transport a firearm in a vehicle that is not attended only if the firearm is unloaded and either locked in the trunk or is not visible from outside the locked vehicle: *Storage, Display, Handling and Transportation of Certain Firearms* Regulations, SOR/92-459, ss. 10(2), 12(2) and (3). (…) Compliance with this (…) regulation should not result in a conviction for carrying a concealed weapon. Rather, it should be seen as an exception to the prohibition otherwise in place under s. 89."

WHAT CONSTITUTES CONCEALMENT?

Although I am unaware of anyone being prosecuted, much less convicted, for using an actual gun case that is not readily identifiable as such, it might be wise not to carry a firearm in a case that resembles another common type of case (such as a briefcase) or, if that be the case, to identify the case (in a somewhat conspicuous way) as containing a firearm. Obviously, carrying a firearm in a case that is meant to deceive third parties as to the nature of its actual content, as for example carrying a firearm in a case shaped like a guitar case, may constitute concealment and is not advisable.

According to Justice Peter Cory, In *Felawka*, the *mens* rea (i.e., the mental element of the infraction) is as follows:

"The requisite mental element of s. 89 of the *Code* is established when the Crown proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused concealed an object that he knew to be a weapon. In order to prove concealment, it must be established that the accused took steps to hide the weapon so that it would not be observed or come to the notice of others."

This would seem to exclude situations where the firearm is put into a container for other reasons, such as for convenience or comfort, or to protect it from the elements. It is easy to contemplate a situation where a firearm is disassembled and put in a backpack, to carry it on foot to a place where hunting is practiced.

However, the reasoning in *R. v. Felawka* has been heavily criticized by judges everywhere, as sometimes leading to what they view as "unfortunate results." In other words, it led to acquittals in situations where the accused appeared to be blameworthy. Without it being formally overturned, many court decisions have departed from the scheme of analysis in *Felawka* to take a broader approach to the required *mens* rea.

In *R. v. C(D.A.)*[2], that criticism was expressed as follows: "The carrying of a concealed weapon is not the most serious or morally blameworthy offence in the *Criminal Code*. But that does not mean that it ought not to be a sanctionable offence. Parliament has recognized the public danger in the carrying of concealed weapons – even with a minimally blameworthy state of mind – and has chosen to create an offence to avert that public danger. Parliament's purpose is legitimate. All too often, garden variety, testosterone-fueled altercations that should end with nothing more than bruised bodies and egos turn deadly because of easy access by one of the combatants to a knife tucked into the inside pocket of a jacket. The purpose of the legislation is to avoid these senseless tragedies by circumscribing actions before the heat of the moment engulfs better judgment. Further, as was alluded to in R. v. *Felawka*, community malaise – and consequent danger – is intensified in a paranoid society where one must always be concerned about whether the person with whom one is sharing a seat on the bus is packing a deadly object."

In *R. v. MacLaren*[3], this broader approach led to the conviction of a woman who carried a collapsible baton in her purse as means for self-defence against a violent ex-spouse. She was convicted, although she testified that the baton was put in her purse for convenience, rather than to keep it from the view of others. Thus, a broader approach to *mens* rea is also potentially conducive to its own set of "unfortunate results," that is to individuals who are not blameworthy being found guilty, such as in my backpack example above. This seems to go against the principle underlying reasonable doubt that the justice system would rather acquit a guilty party than condemn an innocent.

Once again, when it comes to firearms, Canada may have managed to criminalize conduct that is not, per se, criminal.

FOOTNOTES:

[1] R. v. Felawka, [1993] 4 S.C.R. 199

[2] 2007 ABPC 171

[3] 2012 NSPC 120

Rubrique juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Le Port D'arme Dissimulée Au Canada

Le Canada n'autorise pas le port dissimulé d'une arme à feu, sauf dans des circonstances très limitées. En fait, le Canada n'autorise le port dissimulé d'aucune arme, y compris une arme à feu, mais la restriction est en fait beaucoup plus large. À en juger par ma lecture de divers forums de discussion sur Internet, il semble y avoir une certaine confusion sur ce sujet ; d'où le choix du « port dissimulé » comme sujet de la chronique de ce mois-ci.

Carrying includes having a weapon on one's person and having it in a portable receptacle, such as a handbag or briefcase.

"Porter" une arme comprend à la fois avoir une arme sur soi, ou en avoir une dans un contenant portable, tel un sac à main ou une mallette.

QUE DIT LE CODE CRIMINEL?

Je reproduis ci-après la disposition pertinente du Code Criminel:

Port d'une arme dissimulée

90 (1) Commet une infraction quiconque porte dissimulés une arme, un dispositif prohibé ou des munitions prohibées sans y être autorisé en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu.

Note marginale: Peine

(2) Quiconque commet l'infraction prévue au paragraphe (1) est coupable:

a) soit d'un acte criminel passible d'un emprisonnement maximal de cinq ans;

b) soit d'une infraction punissable sur déclaration de culpabilité par procédure sommaire.

QUELLES SONT LES EXCEPTIONS?

Une exception est la détention d'une autorisation de port d'arme délivrée en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu, qui permet spécifiquement le port d'une arme à feu dissimulée. Cependant, ces autorisations sont extrêmement peu nombreuses. Une autre exception concerne les «fonctionnaires publics » (tels les policiers), qui peuvent être exemptés en vertu de l'article 117.07 du *Code Criminel.*

QU'EST-CE QU'UNE ARME?

L'expression « arme » est définie à l'article 2 du *Code Criminel*:

Arme Toute chose conçue, utilisée ou qu'une personne entend utiliser pour soit tuer ou blesser quelqu'un, soit le menacer ou l'intimider. Sont notamment visées par la présente définition les armes à feu et, pour l'application des articles 88, 267 et 272, toute chose conçue, utilisée ou qu'une personne entend utiliser pour attacher quelqu'un contre son gré. (weapon)

Il faut noter qu'une arme à feu est toujours considérée comme une « arme », quel que soit le but ou le contexte pour lequel elle est possédée ou portée. Cela est vrai pour toutes les armes à feu, même celles qui ne nécessitent pas de permis, comme les armes à air comprimé à faible vitesse et à faible énergie, qui sont capables de causer des blessures corporelles. Cela signifie également qu'une arme à feu non chargée est également considérée comme une arme, quelle que soit la disponibilité des munitions.

Outre les armes à feu, certains articles, tels que les poings américains, seront également considérés intrinsèquement comme des « armes », essentiellement parce qu'ils n'ont d'autre usage que d'être utilisés comme armes. Les poings américains sont également un dispositif prohibé. D'autres items, comme les couteaux, ne sont pas automatiquement considérés comme des « armes » parce qu'ils ont d'autres utilités. Veuillez noter cependant que certains couteaux, tels que les couteaux à cran d'arrêt, sont des dispositifs prohibés.

QUE SIGNIFIE « PORTER »?

Le port est à distinguer du « transport », qui implique l'utilisation d'un véhicule. Cependant, le port d'armes comprend à la fois le fait d'avoir une arme sur sa personne et de l'avoir dans un récipient portable, tel qu'un sac à main ou une mallette. Qu'en est-il de l'avoir dans un étui d'arme à feu? Après tout, la loi exige que les armes à feu à autorisation restreinte et certaines armes à feu prohibées soient transportées dans un caisson. Il y a nécessairement des moments, soit au début ou à la fin d'un périple entre la maison et le champ de tir, où le caisson contenant l'arme à feu est porté à l'extérieur du véhicule. Commet-on une infraction pénale, en respectant la réglementation afférente au transport? Heureusement, la réponse est « non » selon la Cour suprême dans R. c. *Felawka*[1]:

« Pourraiton dire d'une personne qui respecte le règlement provincial qu'elle viole l'art. 89? Je ne le crois pas. En pratique, l'étui à fusil est un objet courant qui signale généralement à tous exactement ce qu'il est. Dans un grand nombre de cas, les carabines ou fusils de chasse sont vendus dans un étui. En fait, on peut difficilement imaginer le propriétaire d'un fusil ne transportant pas son fusil dans un étui s'il veut éviter qu'il rouille et qu'il en vienne à mal fonctionner. Comme l'étui à fusil a la forme d'une arme à feu, on ne peut pas dire qu'il dissimule une arme. On pourrait soutenir que certains étuis destinés au transport de fusils coûteux utilisés pour les compétitions de tir au pigeon d'argile ou de balltrap ressemblent plus à une serviette qu'à un étui à fusil. Sans doute, mais il est possible et nécessaire d'indiquer clairement sur ces étuis qu'ils sont des étuis à fusil. Un fusil rangé dans un étui ou solidement enveloppé dans une toile ne devrait pas être considéré comme caché ou dissimulé. Il ressemble toujours à un fusil et il est transporté d'une manière qui ne viole pas l'art. 89. Ainsi, s'il respecte le règlement provincial, le propriétaire d'un fusil ne viole pas l'art. 89.

Les règlements qui causent le plus de problèmes sont ceux qui contraignent le propriétaire à ranger son fusil dans un coffre ou un compartiment à bagage, soit un endroit qui, de l'extérieur, n'indique pas au public la présence d'un fusil. Le législateur fédéral a récemment pris un règlement sur le transport des armes à feu qui permet à une personne de transporter une arme à feu à bord d'un véhicule non surveillé seulement s'il s'agit d'une arme à feu non chargée et si elle se trouve dans le coffre verrouillé ou si elle n'est pas visible de l'extérieur du véhicule verrouillé: *Règlement sur l'entreposage, la mise en montre, la manipulation et le transport de certaines armes à feu*, DORS/92459, par. 10(2), 12(2) et (3). (…) Une arme à feu volée peut être utilisée à mauvais escient et constitue donc un danger sérieux pour la société. Le respect de ce règlement (…) ne devrait pas entraîner une déclaration de culpabilité relativement à l'infraction de port d'une arme dissimulée. Au contraire, il devrait être considéré comme une exception à l'interdiction par ailleurs prévue à l'art. 89."

QU'EST-CE QUI CONSTITUE UNE DISSIMULATION?

Bien que je ne sois pas au courant que quelqu'un ait été poursuivi, et encore moins condamné, pour avoir utilisé un étui d'arme qui n'est pas facilement identifiable en tant que tel, il pourrait être sage de ne pas porter d'arme à feu dans un étui ou caisson qui ressemble à un autre type de contenant (comme une mallette) ou, si tel est le cas, d'identifier l'étui ou le caisson (d'une manière relativement visible) comme contenant une arme à feu. De toute évidence, il n'est pas conseillé de porter une arme à feu dans un étui destiné à tromper les tiers quant à la nature de son contenu réel, comme par exemple transporter une arme à feu dans un étui en forme d'étui de guitare.

Selon le juge Peter Cory, dans l'affaire *Felawka*, la mens rea (c.-à-d. l'élément moral de l'infraction) peut être décrit comme suit :

« Afin d'atteindre le but de l'art. 89 et de respecter son objet, il semble alors que l›intention ou l›élément moral requis devrait être l›intention de l›accusé de cacher un objet qu›il sait être une arme. »

Cela semble exclure les situations où l'arme à feu est placée dans un conteneur pour d'autres raisons, par exemple pour des raisons de commodité ou de confort, ou pour la protéger des éléments. Il est facile d'envisager une situation où une arme à feu est démontée et mise dans un sac à dos, afin de la porter à pied vers un endroit où la chasse est pratiquée.

Cependant, le raisonnement dans l'affaire *R. c. Felawka* a été fortement critiqué par des juges de plusieurs juridictions, comme conduisant parfois à ce qu'ils considèrent comme des « résultats malheureux ». En d'autres mots, des individus étaient innocentés, bien que leur conduite soit moralement blâmable. Sans qu'elle soit formellement renversée, de nombreuses décisions se sont écartées du schéma d'analyse de *Felawka*, pour adopter une approche plus large de la mens rea requise. Dans l'affaire R. c. C.D.A.) [2], cette critique a été exprimée comme suit:

« (Traduction) Le port d'une arme dissimulée n'est pas l'infraction la plus grave ou la plus moralement blâmable du *Code Criminel*. Mais cela ne signifie pas qu'il ne devrait pas s'agir d'une infraction passible de sanctions. Le Parlement a reconnu le danger public lié au port d'armes dissimulées – même avec un état d'esprit peu blâmable – et a choisi de créer une infraction pour éviter ce danger public. L'objectif du Parlement est légitime. Trop souvent, des altercations alimentées par la testostérone qui ne devraient se terminer par rien de plus que des egos et des corps meurtris deviennent mortelles en raison de l'accès facile par l'un des combattants à un couteau caché dans la poche intérieure d'une veste. Le but de la loi est d'éviter ces tragédies insensées en circonscrivant les gestes qui peuvent survenir dans le feu de l'action. De plus, comme il a été mentionné dans l'arrêt R. c. *Felawka*, le malaise social– et le danger qui en résulte – s'intensifie dans une société paranoïaque où il faut toujours se soucier de savoir si la personne avec qui l'on partage un siège dans le bus porte un objet potentiellement mortel. »

Dans l'affaire R. c. MacLaren[3], cette approche plus large a mené à la condamnation d'une femme qui portait une petite matraque pliable dans son sac à main à des fins de légitime défense contre un ex-conjoint violent. Elle a été reconnue coupable, bien qu'elle ait témoigné que la matraque avait été placée dans son sac à main pour des raisons de commodité, plutôt que pour la mettre à l'abri des regards des tiers. Ainsi, une approche plus large de la mens rea est également susceptible de mener à d'autres résultats tout aussi malheureux, comme dans mon exemple de sac à dos ci-dessus. Cela semble aller à l'encontre du principe du doute raisonnable, qui veut qu'il soit préférable d'innocenter un coupable que de condamner un innocent.

Malheureusement et encore une fois, en matière d'armes à feu, le Canada a à nouveau réussi à criminaliser une conduite qui n'est pas criminelle *en soi*.

FOOTNOTES:

[1] R. v. Felawka, [1993] 4 R.C.S. 199

[2] 2007 ABPC 171

[3] NPC 120 2012

Made in Canada

Al Voth

MDT Magazines

There's no doubt that one of the most successful Canadian companies in the firearms world is British Columbia-based MDT (Modular Driven Technologies). I first encountered them in 2011 at a trade show when they weren't much more than a one-man operation and only had one product, a chassis system for the Remington 700 short-action rifle. I immediately grabbed one and put it to good use on a varmint and predator rifle. Now in its second generation, the TAC21 is still available. Their latest chassis is a magnesium/carbon fibre hybrid which weighs only 26 ounces and is designed for hunters. And yes, I just had to have one of those too.

Today, MDT has offices in the US as well as Canada and produces a blizzard of products for rifle shooters. Chassis systems are still their mainstay and by my count they now offer seven different models, each in multiple inlets, covering everything from rimfires to the big centrefires. And, of course, they also manufacture the pieces necessary to complete these chassis systems, including grips, buttstocks, magazines and a broad range of add-ons.

MDT is also well known for its line of magazines, all based on the AICS pattern. Capacities vary from three to 12 rounds, and construction includes metal, polymer and hybrid designs. All the common calibres are represented in their lineup, as are some unusual ones like the 6 BR, 6mm ARC and the 6.5 Grendel. Additionally, many of them are adaptable to calibres they were never designed for. A good example is one of their polymer 10-round 308 WIN magazines I use in my 22-250. Feeding can be a little finicky if I load it to full capacity, but if I stick to eight rounds it feeds perfectly in my Remington 700 with that HNT 26 chassis.

My Savage 110 in 224 Valkyrie and mounted in an MDT XRS chassis uses one of their magazines too, as does a 6.5 Creedmoor, a 308 WIN and a .223 REM. While I haven't done it myself, I have heard of other shooters bending and tweaking the mag lips of the steel magazines to work with their favourite wildcat or oddball cartridge.

Of course, you don't need to be using an MDT chassis to use their magazines. Because they are built to AICS specs, they should work with any rifle with a magwell built to those standards, including those by Ruger, Accuracy International, GRS and more. Magazine prices range from $40 to $100 CAD, depending on model.

Besides building quality products, MDT has an excellent reputation for customer service and standing behind those products. They are always innovating and developing new products, making them a valuable addition to the Canadian firearms community. They maintain an active online presence and I recommend visiting the website at www.mdttac.ca and signing up for their e-mail bulletins to keep in touch with what's happening at this uniquely Canadian company.

RL550C
The World's Most Versatile
Progressive Reloader
• Accommodates Over 160 Calibers
• Uses Standard 7/8" x 14 Dies
• Loading Rate: 400-600 Rds./Hr.
• Comes With One Caliber Conversion
• Interchangeable Toolhead Assembly
• Automatic Powder Measure
• Automatic Primer System
• Lifetime "No-B.S." Warranty
• RISK FREE 30-Day Trial!
Dillon
PRECISION
dillonprecision.com

VORTEX
UNLIMITED / UNCONDITIONAL / LIFETIME WARRANTY
VIP
WARRANTY
Learn more at VortexCanada.net
RIFLESCOPES | RED DOTS | BINOCULARS | MONOCULARS | SPOTTING SCOPES | TRIPODS | APPAREL

NO COMPROMISE.