

# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2023

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CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

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# 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.

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# CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

JULY/AUGUST 2023



## COLUMNS

**4**  
**ON THE COVER**

**5**  
**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**  
On the Range  
AL VOTH

**6**  
**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
AGM, C-21 & Court Challenge  
RICK IGERCICH

**10**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
The Work Ahead  
BLAIR HAGEN

**12**  
**POLITICS & GUNS**  
Defining Guns,  
A Self-Inflicted Problem  
BRUCE GOLD

**14**  
**PRESERVING OUR  
FIREARMS HERITAGE**  
Tribute To A Cowboy Artisan  
GARY K. KANGAS

**50**  
**LEGAL CORNER**  
The Latest About Bill C-21  
GUY LAVERGNE

**54**

**MADE IN CANADA**  
ATRS Ultra-Lite Rings  
BRECON SATCHWELL

## FEATURES

**16**  
**MUZZLELOADING 101**  
Shooting & hunting with modern  
in-line muzzleloaders  
KEVIN WILSON

**20**  
**PRESSURE POINTS**  
Temperature's effect  
on cartridge performance  
LOWELL STRAUSS

**24**  
**BARREL BREAK-IN**  
An important process  
or a waste of time and money?  
T.J. SCHWANKY

**28**  
**IT'S NEW!**  
The art & science of  
developing new cartridges  
JEFF HELSDON

**32**  
**CANADA'S NEW SNIPER RIFLE**  
Sako and Steiner combine  
to create the C21  
JUSTIN FOSTER

**36**  
**RANGE DAY**  
New gear for a great  
day at the range  
AL VOTH

**40**  
**MORE THAN DISTANCE**  
Leupold's RX-1400i  
TBR/W rangefinder  
JEFF SMITH

**43**  
**ACCUTRIGGER  
ANNIVERSARY**  
Twenty years of great trigger pulls  
JEFF HELSDON

**44**  
**TV IS EASY**  
If you dream of having  
your own TV show, read this  
TIMOTHY FOWLER

**48**  
**CANADA'S FIRST  
MASS-PRODUCED SHOTGUN**  
The Tobin Arms Manufacturing  
Company epic – part 2  
G. SCOTT JAMIESON




## MISSION STATEMENT

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

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# On the Cover

The cover of this issue shows a competitor punching holes in a 50-metre target as part of a postal rimfire benchrest competition. The rifle in use is a BSA Martini-International Mk. II single-shot match gun chambered for the 22 Long Rifle. It has a 28-inch barrel and weighs approximately 14 pounds. The adjustable trigger is currently set to four ounces. While the original forend was designed for prone shooting, it has been replaced with a wider and shorter version, better suited to benchrest shooting. Originally made around 1955, the rifle is still a great performer, with the owner using it and ELEY ammunition to shoot some record book scores just last year. 



## Canadian Firearms Journal

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FIREARMS  
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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## On the Range

Welcome to summer in Canada. Nice weather and long days should be sufficient to keep the shooting ranges busy. I know the ranges in my area are seeing record membership numbers, with many capping the number of members to allow quality time for existing range users.

A look at their online calendars also shows lots of competitions scheduled for the summer months, another encouraging sign.

A little web surfing reveals all the major shooting disciplines have national championships scheduled for the summer months, with most happening in August. If any of these are being held in your area, be sure to visit the range during these events, even if you're not competing, just to see the people, the gear and how things are done for that discipline. It's always a fascinating and educational experience for me.

I see a significant number of training events scheduled at ranges as well. These include things like the IPSC Black Badge course and Mapleseed days, as well as local instructors running courses on developing handgun, carbine, shotgun and rifle skills. A local trap club has a program for juniors in which they supply shotgun, ammunition and targets. The youngsters only have to show up. Now that's how to build a nation of shooters!

But it doesn't take a major club effort to do things like that. It can happen on an individual level as well. Just take a non-gun owner to the range for a few hours, supply the guns and ammunition and let them have some safe firearm fun. As I write this, I already have some people booked for a fun range day once school is out. We'll do some handgun, rifle and shotgun, keeping




the shots easy and focusing on safety and enjoyment.

Here's a list of some major national level shooting competitions being held over the summer. I had to scour the web to find these, so the information is only as good as what these groups have on their websites. I may have forgotten some disciplines or just couldn't find the information:

- Rifle Silhouette Nationals: June 25 to 1 July, Cranbrook, BC
- PPC Nationals, June 29 to July 1, Dryden, Ont.
- Canadian Trapshooting Nationals: June 28 to July 2, Brandon, Man.
- ISSF-type Pistol Nationals, July 10 to 16, Camrose, Alta.
- Five-Stand Nationals, July 20 to 23, Grande Prairie, Alta.
- Skeet Shooting Nationals, July 25 to 30, Courtenay, BC

- Benchrest Nationals, July 28 to 30, Selkirk, Man.
- ISSF-type Rifle Nationals, Aug. 2 to 10, Trois-Rivières, Que.
- ISSF-type Trap Nationals, Aug. 3 to 7, Toronto, Ont.
- Cowboy Action Nationals: Aug. 5 to 7, Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
- IPSC Handgun Nationals: Aug. 9 to 12, Selkirk, Man.
- DCRA Rifle Nationals: Aug. 14 to 19, Borden, Ont.
- F-Class Nationals: Aug. 24 to 27, Nokomis, Sask.
- King of Two Miles: Sept. 15 to 17, Hannah, Alta.
- CRPS Nationals, Sept. 23 to 24, Avonmore, Ont.

Obviously, there's lots of shooting to be done this summer. So, get out there and turn some money into loud noises. 



# President's Message

Rick Igercich

## AGM, C-21 & Court Challenge

I'm going to touch on several topics this month, as a lot has happened since my last column.

First, Canada's National Firearms Association's annual general meeting (AGM) has ended in Brossard, Que. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the NFA members who came from all parts of Quebec and several other provinces across Canada to support us. A big thank you to Guy Morin, Pierre Lefebvre and Francois Picard, who had the crowd sitting on the edge of their seats. I've never felt so much passion in one room. It does my heart good to see that; no matter what part of Canada you are from, we all agree on how important our rights and freedoms are. I also wanted to sincerely thank Martin Bourget and Patrice Picard for all their support.

The biggest shout out goes to the 2023 NFA board of directors, they are the finest team I have ever had the pleasure of working with and the finest group of individuals in the Canadian gun lobby. They each bring special expertise and passion and come from all parts of the country.

Vice-president Blair Hagen, from British Columbia, has an encyclopedic knowledge of firearms laws, rules, regulations and procedures and is all too happy to provide that knowledge at a moment's notice.

Chuck Cote, from Quebec, was my right hand and translator at the AGM. He is one of the most passionate individuals in terms of restoring firearms rights to Canadians and he is also an exceptional competitive shooter.

Joe Esteves, also from Quebec, has extensive, deep-reaching knowledge about firearms and their components and is on the ground every day talking to firearms owners in Quebec.

Don Feltham, of Newfoundland, who is also our secretary, has an extraordinary knowledge of Atlantic Canada

politics and is a seasoned hunter, sport shooter, collector and reloader.

Tom Mavin, my colleague in Ontario, is a former police officer with extensive forensics experience, as well as being a sport shooter, collector and re-enactor. He has only recently taken over as a director in that province and has already taken the NFA to the next level in his region.

Dwayne Gorniak, from Alberta, is an expert in Alberta and Canadian politics, working tirelessly to strengthen ties with local firearm-friendly politicians and promote the organization locally, and he is also a hunter, shooter, reloader and collector.

Jerrold Lundgard, from northern Alberta, has decades of knowledge and experience in gun rights and the Canadian legal system. He is also a strong presence on social media, helping members, as well as firearms owners in general, navigate the complex and turbulent sea of Canadian firearms law.

Hardy Staub, also from British Columbia, has extensive political connections across the country and brings to the table an in-depth knowledge of the shifting political landscape.

Special thanks to our lobbyist Charles Zach, who is getting it done on the front lines in Ottawa. He is in continuous contact with MPs of all parties, educating and lobbying them on where law-abiding Canadian firearms owners stand.

I want to give a big shout to Ginger, our general manager, and Bev from head office, who made this whole thing happen. We could not have done it without them. To Nathaniel, our social media co-ordinator and a video and graphic developer extraordinaire, who has taken our social media far and beyond the next level. And finally, a thank you to all law-abiding Canadians for your support and for continuing to fight the good fight.

On April 27, the NFA announced that it is regrettably severing ties with the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Association due to their collusion with the Liberals in the confiscation of the rights and property of law-abiding Canadians.

We cannot be part of an organization that puts a price tag on the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians, regardless of how benign or well-meaning the motivations for that may be; \$707,000 is apparently the price for selling out the rights and freedoms of all Canadians.

No good can come from any participation in this most egregious affront to the rights and property of Canadians. Yes, there is a financial price to pay, but the price to be paid in the future is much greater than accepting a Liberal buyout for a few of the May 2020 OIC firearms remaining in dealer's inventories.

As of this writing, Bill C-21 has gone through the committee stage and the third reading, it is now going to the Senate. The Liberals added several amendments during the committee stage, which will adversely affect law-abiding Canadians.

The NFA-funded Primack versus Canada case has come to an end. Solomon Friedman did an outstanding job presenting the case. It is now in the hands of the judge for a final decision, which could take six to eight months.

In closing, I would like to say that we are facing the darkest times in history for firearms ownership. The Liberal government is determined to take all firearms out of the hands of law-abiding Canadians. We at Canada's National Firearms Association will not stand for this, we are dug in deep for the fight and holding steadfast. We will use everything available to us, within the law, to make sure that Canadians' rights and freedoms are not denied and that a tyrannical government will not seize their personal property.

Thank you for your support and continue to fight the good fight. 🗡️

# Message du Président

Rick Igercich

## AGA, C-21 & Contestations Judiciaires

**J**e vais traiter de divers sujets ce mois-ci, et beaucoup de choses se sont passées depuis la dernière fois que j'ai écrit.

Tout d'abord, l'Assemblée générale annuelle (AGA) de l'Association canadienne des armes à feu (NFA) a eu lieu à Brossard, au Québec. Je tiens à remercier chaleureusement les membres de la NFA qui sont venus de toutes les régions du Québec et de plusieurs autres provinces du Canada pour nous appuyer. Un grand merci à Guy Morin, Pierre Lefebvre et François Picard, qui ont su tenir la foule en haleine. Je n'ai jamais ressenti une telle passion dans une même salle. Cela me fait chaud au cœur de voir que, quelle que soit la région du Canada d'où nous venons, nous sommes tous d'accord sur l'importance de nos droits et de nos libertés. Je tiens également à remercier sincèrement Martin Bourget et Patrice Picard pour leur soutien.

Toutes mes félicitations au Conseil d'administration de la NFA de 2023. C'est la meilleure équipe avec laquelle j'ai eu le plaisir de travailler, et les meilleurs membres du lobby canadien des armes à feu. Chacun apporte une expertise et une passion spéciales, de toutes les régions du pays. Le vice-président Blair Hagen, de la Colombie-Britannique, a une connaissance encyclopédique des lois, règles, règlements et procédures sur les armes à feu, et il est content de pouvoir la mettre à profit à tout moment.

Chuck Côté, du Québec, était mon bras droit et mon traducteur à l'AGA. Il est l'une des personnes les plus passionnées par le rétablissement des droits des Canadiens aux armes à feu. Il est également un tireur de compétence exceptionnel.

Joe Esteves, également du Québec, possède une vaste connaissance des armes à feu et de leurs composantes, et il est sur le terrain tous les jours, parlant aux propriétaires d'armes à

feu du Québec.

Don Feltham, de Terre-Neuve, est notre secrétaire et possède une connaissance extraordinaire de la politique au Canada atlantique. Il est également un chasseur chevronné, un tireur sportif, un collectionneur et un excellent chargeur.

Tom Mavin, mon collègue de l'Ontario, est un ancien agent de police qui possède une grande expérience de la médecine légale. Il est également tireur sportif, collectionneur et interprète historique, et est récemment entré en fonctions comme directeur de la province et a déjà fait passer la NFA à la vitesse supérieure dans la région.

Dwayne Gorniak, de l'Alberta, est un spécialiste de la politique albertaine et canadienne, et il travaille sans relâche pour renforcer les liens avec les politiciens locaux favorables aux armes à feu et pour promouvoir l'organisation au palier local. Il est également chasseur, tireur, chargeur et collectionneur.

Jerrold Lundgard, du nord de l'Alberta, possède des décennies de connaissance et d'expérience sur les droits aux armes à feu et du système de justice canadien. Il est également très présent sur les médias sociaux, aidant les membres, ainsi que les propriétaires d'armes à feu en général, à naviguer dans la mer complexe et turbulente du droit canadien sur les armes à feu.

Hardy Staub, également de la Colombie-Britannique, a de nombreuses relations politiques dans tout le pays et apporte une connaissance approfondie de l'évolution du paysage politique depuis des décennies.

Un immense merci à notre lobbyiste Charles Zach, qui travaille en première ligne à Ottawa. Il communique régulièrement avec des députés de tous les partis, les informant et faisant pression sur eux pour qu'ils connaissent la position des propriétaires

d'armes à feu canadiens respectueux des lois.

Je tiens à féliciter Ginger, notre directrice générale, et Bev, du siège social, qui ont permis d'organiser cet événement. Nous n'y serions pas arrivés sans elles.

Merci à Nathaniel, notre coordonnateur des médias sociaux, extraordinaire concepteur vidéo et graphique, qui permet à nos médias sociaux de passer à un niveau supérieur. Finalement, merci à tous les Canadiens respectueux des lois pour leur soutien et leur détermination à mener le bon combat.

Le jeudi 27 avril 2023, la NFA a annoncé qu'elle rompait malheureusement ses liens avec la Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Association (CSAAA) en raison de sa collusion avec les libéraux dans la confiscation des droits et des biens des Canadiens respectueux des lois.

Nous ne pouvons pas faire partie d'une organisation qui met un prix sur les droits, les libertés et les biens des Canadiens, quelles que soient ses motivations bénignes ou bienveillantes. Il semble que 707 000 \$ est le prix à payer pour brader les droits et les libertés de tous les Canadiens.

Rien de bon ne peut découler d'une quelconque participation à cet affront des plus flagrants aux droits et aux biens des Canadiens. Oui, il y a un prix financier à payer, mais le futur prix à payer est bien plus élevé que le fait d'accepter le rachat par les libéraux de quelques armes à feu visées par le décret de mai 2020 qui restent dans les stocks des magasins.

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes, le projet de loi C-21 a franchi les étapes de l'étude en comité et de la troisième lecture, et il est maintenant devant le Sénat. Les libéraux ont ajouté divers amendements en comité, qui auront des conséquences négatives sur les Canadiens respectueux des lois. >



L'affaire Primack contre Canada, financée par la NFA, est arrivée à son terme. Solomon Friedman a fait un travail remarquable en présentant l'affaire. Le juge doit maintenant rendre une décision finale, ce qui pourrait nécessiter de six à huit mois.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais dire que nous vivons le moment le plus sombre de l'histoire de la possession d'armes à feu du pays. Le gouvernement libéral est déterminé à retirer toutes les armes à feu des mains

des Canadiens respectueux des lois. L'Association canadienne des armes à feu ne tolérera pas cela. Nous sommes profondément engagés dans la lutte et nous tenons bon. Nous allons utiliser tous les outils à notre disposition, dans le cadre de la loi, pour assurer que les droits et les libertés des Canadiens ne sont pas bafoués et qu'un gouvernement tyrannique ne saisira pas leurs biens personnels.

Je vous remercie pour votre soutien. Continuons à mener le bon combat.

## NFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**Rick Igercich, NFA president (right), and Patrice Picard of Cadex (left), presented the Cadex rifle and Leupold scope to Steven Wilson (centre) of Saint-Eustache, QC, winner of the "The Bone Collector" giveaway/fundraiser.**









# Vice-president's Message

By Blair Hagen

## The Work Ahead

I have to say, my column in the previous Canadian Firearms Journal seems to have rattled some cages, hit home with some and caused even more questions and comments in contacts I've received from readers over the ensuing weeks. I appreciate those responses and I encourage more readers of Canadian Firearms Journal to do the same. They help me and the National Firearms Association know if we are on target in representing the interests of Canadians who believe in rights and freedoms. Keep it up. This is how we figure things out.

This weird dystopian political and cultural moment we find ourselves in has caused all of us to do a lot of soul searching. It's caused me to re-assess a lot of the views I previously held about this country and its institutions. Maybe it's done the same for you. From the responses I've received, I think this is widespread.

The rights and freedoms, the guarantees of citizenship, respect for property and freedom of speech have all been attacked and mauled by the Trudeau Liberals, who view Canadians as farm animals to be herded and managed. Patronized and taxed into oblivion for the ideological enjoyment of bureaucrats and politicians, they are corralled and exploited. Maybe together we can find sense in it all, and through our combined efforts get Canada back on track to be the respected first world nation it once was and can be again.

Bill C-21 means a permanent handgun transfer freeze to facilitate confiscation of your property and permanent prohibition of May 2020 OIC guns, with confiscation of those surrendered or tracked down by the Liberals. It means further attacks on your ability to hold a firearms license, and even apply for a firearms license, if you don't meet the narrow definitions imposed by the Liberals.

How does this get overturned?

Well, a Conservative government needs to introduce legislation to do that. In order to pass that legislation in Parliament,

they require a majority government, as the Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois will not support firearms law reform.

We did it in 2011, when we gave the Harper Conservatives a majority in Parliament, which is how the infamous long gun registry was ended with Bill C-19. Other reforms were legislated under that government in 2015. The opposition parties fought that tooth and nail, despite the undisputed fact their ideologically motivated civil disarmament legislation had failed every test.

And this is why, once again, I am going to reiterate that the next government must introduce absolute, fundamental firearms law reform. No nips or tucks, no minor alterations. Massive, fundamental legislative reform will remove the underpinnings of the Liberal legislation for good and redress all the historic attacks and offenses of the civil disarmament lobby; legislation that turns the Liberal civil disarmament agenda on its head for a generation.

Again, that is going to be controversial. It will be fought tooth and nail not only by the opposition parties, but also by the mainstream media which shares their civil disarmament agenda. The government that legislates these reforms must have the determination of the righteous and guts of steel, for they will be cast as the irresponsible murderers of women and children by the demons and ideologues in the opposition parties and mainstream media.

Might that government be the Poilievre Conservatives? Maybe. This party, born out of the lessons of the flip flops and failure of Erin O'Toole, certainly would seem to have taken those lessons to heart. The stated beliefs, platforms and policies of Pierre Poilievre would suggest the lesson is learned. But we won't know until they form a government.

I am sure there are still some members of the Conservative Party, and even sitting CPC MPs, who are perplexed by the gun issue. "Why is this an issue in Canada?" they might think when it

is invariably brought up by concerned constituents.

It's an issue because it has hot critical mass due to the intentions of Justin's Liberals to confiscate the rights and property of millions of Canadians who did nothing more than be law-abiding. This is the biggest attack on rights, freedoms and property since the disenfranchisement of Canadians of Japanese descent during the Second World War.

Even better, what are commonly known as "gun rights," but which are better represented in the Canadian political context as "respect for the rights and property of Canadians," are now a core value of today's conservative movement in Canada. O'Toole found this out the hard way when he jettisoned these values in his quest to be prime minister. Small 'C' conservative voters deserted the CPC in 2021 for what they thought was a more principled alternative, causing O'Toole to become a footnote in Canadian political history.

I talk to a lot of people very concerned about the politics of today, Bill C-21 and the confiscations that the Liberals so dearly want to visit on Canadians. I completely understand those concerns and share them with everyone else who believes in rights and freedoms. The fact of the matter is that Canadians have never been better positioned to defeat the Liberal civil disarmament agenda and reverse the Liberal's confiscation agenda than we have ever been in modern Canadian political history. The stupidity of the Liberals in forcing C-21 paves the way.

The fulcrum for this will be the next federal election, which I believe will be coming soon. Focus all of your anger, your disappointment, your disgust and all of your vengeance on that coming day. For on that day, Justin Trudeau's political career is over and so are the careers of his closest conspirators in their war against the rights and freedoms of Canadians.

That day, we once again take back Canada and teach the Liberals that firearms are the third rail of Canadian politics. Target the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians? Lose the election and spend another decade or longer in the political wilderness as punishment. This is best served cold, and that cold, cold day is almost upon Justin and the Liberals. 🚩

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# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## Defining Guns, A Self-Inflicted Problem

As the SECU meetings have demonstrated, a fundamental problem with our current firearm law is its attempt to regulate inanimate objects (firearms) instead of just regulating the actual misuse of firearms. This agenda replaces legal clarity with a tangled mass of technicalities.

The exercise necessarily focuses extensive regulatory resources on the legally owned firearms in the system, which in turn focuses our regulatory efforts on the licensed, registered, vetted, law-abiding owners who are the least likely people to actually engage in misuse.

Unfortunately, since criminals are not in the system (being banned from having firearms) and illegal guns are also not in the system (being illegal), this regulatory paper chase excludes them entirely. Accordingly, major resources are relentlessly directed away from known felons, prohibited persons and criminal misuse. Any firearms involvement of these people will take place in criminal court, bypassing the licensing, recording, registering bureaucracy entirely. The end result of this is the law-abiding are harassed with overregulation and the people most likely to engage in misuse -- especially violent, repeat offenders -- are completely bypassed.

### OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF FOUR CLASSES PROHIBITED

- Handguns with barrels less than a certain arbitrary length;
- Guns designed or adapted to discharge obsolete .25 or .32 calibre cartridges;
- Rifles or shotguns cut down below an arbitrary size;
- Automatic firearms;
- Any firearms arbitrarily named in regulations.

### RESTRICTED

- Handguns that are not prohibited firearms, a few rifles and any firearm arbitrarily named in regulations.

### ANTIQUES

- Firearms manufactured before 1898 that don't use cartridge ammunition or use obsolete types.

### NON-RESTRICTED

- Anything else.

### FIREARMS REFERENCE TABLE

Currently, we are pouring money into the Firearms Reference Table, a bureaucratic wonder cataloging 187,000 different firearms. The Firearms Reference Table is the RCMP's privately owned software with legal limitations on copying or transferring for "any purpose whatsoever." This administrative document is not a legal document. Yet despite being a private document with a dubious basis in law, the government, customs agents, police and courts use it to confiscate private property, block imports, arrest and imprison individuals.

This abomination blurs the distinction between criminal law and administrative law, at the same time imposing legal uncertainty on all concerned parties. It is standard RCMP procedure to continually add to the table and sporadically re-classify existing entries, all without public notice. Firearms listed in the May 1, 2020, OIC are covered by an amnesty, but firearms prohibited since have no specific protection since they are not listed, creating instant criminals who have no idea their registration has been changed. The Liberals' evergreen policy of continuous re-classification and unannounced, arbitrary changes to re-classification standards weaponizes this problem. Under this policy, no one, owners, courts, police or government, has any certainty regarding a firearm's classification or if that classification will be the same tomorrow.

### CIVILIAN VERSUS MILITARY FIREARMS

Much of the current Bill C-21 debate is how to make the correct distinction between military-style and civilian firearms. The reason this is so hard to nail down is the distinction does not exist (full auto is already illegal). Both military and civilian firearms use the same technologies. Further, they do not and never have had separate design and development histories. Some features,

such as the use of rifled barrels for greater range and accuracy, developed in civilian guns were adopted by the military. Other features, such as the use of plastic/nylon stocks and pistol grips, were first developed by the military and then adopted for civilian firearms. Many new firearms are developed with both the military and civilian market in mind and then produced in various models, depending on what sells. Trying to sort 187,000 different firearms into two categories based on technical distinctions that don't exist is an exercise in folly. When we consider that the whole exercise is diverting scarce resources away from the original problem -- violent crime -- it's an exercise in futility.

### THE OIC'S EVASION OF A DEFINITION

The May 1, 2020, OIC tried to define the invented term "assault-style" with a fuzzy set of pretend definitions, while carefully avoiding an actual, legal definition. They declared it to be:

Primarily designed for a tactical, military or paramilitary purpose (entirely subjective categories with no clear definition).

Capable of holding a quickly reloadable, large-capacity magazine (already illegal).

Has a semi-automatic action with sustained rapid-fire capability (without definitions of sustained or rapid fire).

Are of modern design (post antiques -- 1898?).

Are present in large volumes in the Canadian market (again, entirely subjective).

It's not clear if all or just one of these determines what an "assault-style" firearm is.

The OIC makes it clear that hunting and sport-shooting firearms will be included in the ban. It states that "previous use by individuals for hunting or sporting purposes is irrelevant" to the ban. The ban's inclusion of unnamed "variants and certain modified versions" would effectively open the ban to include all firearms.

### BILL C-21

Bill C-21 deliberately misnames confiscation without compensation as a "freeze" on the handgun market. This policy was applied to half of all legally owned handguns when the Firearms Act became law. It had no impact whatsoever on crime. It is a massive seizure of private property from the law-abiding, with no benefit beyond political brinkmanship.

Amendment G-4 (temporarily withdrawn) does not legally define "assault-style," it merely lists new categories of prohibited firearms, which are:

- Capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy exceeding 10,000 joules, or;
- with a bore diameter of 20 millimetres or greater, or;
- rifle or shotgun capable of discharging centrefire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner and designed to accept a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity greater than five cartridges of the type for which the firearm was originally designed. (Completely ignores the vast number of "variants," a term with no legal definition)

Amendment G-46, the Liberals' ban list of thousands of rifle and shotgun models to be confiscated, is both an admission

that their definitions are inadequate and a gun grab because any listed firearm of any design will invite the prohibition of undefined "variants."

Liberal spokesmen have stated this is okay because there are still some 19,000 firearm models available for use. This might sound reasonable, but it should be viewed in light of the FRT's 187,000 models. It is an admission that their aim is to ban 90 per cent of all firearms. Trudeau claims that these policies will "not impede the lawful use of firearms by Canadians." This is compatible with the destruction of the \$4 billion sports shooting industry because he would make the guns illegal, hence no lawful use.

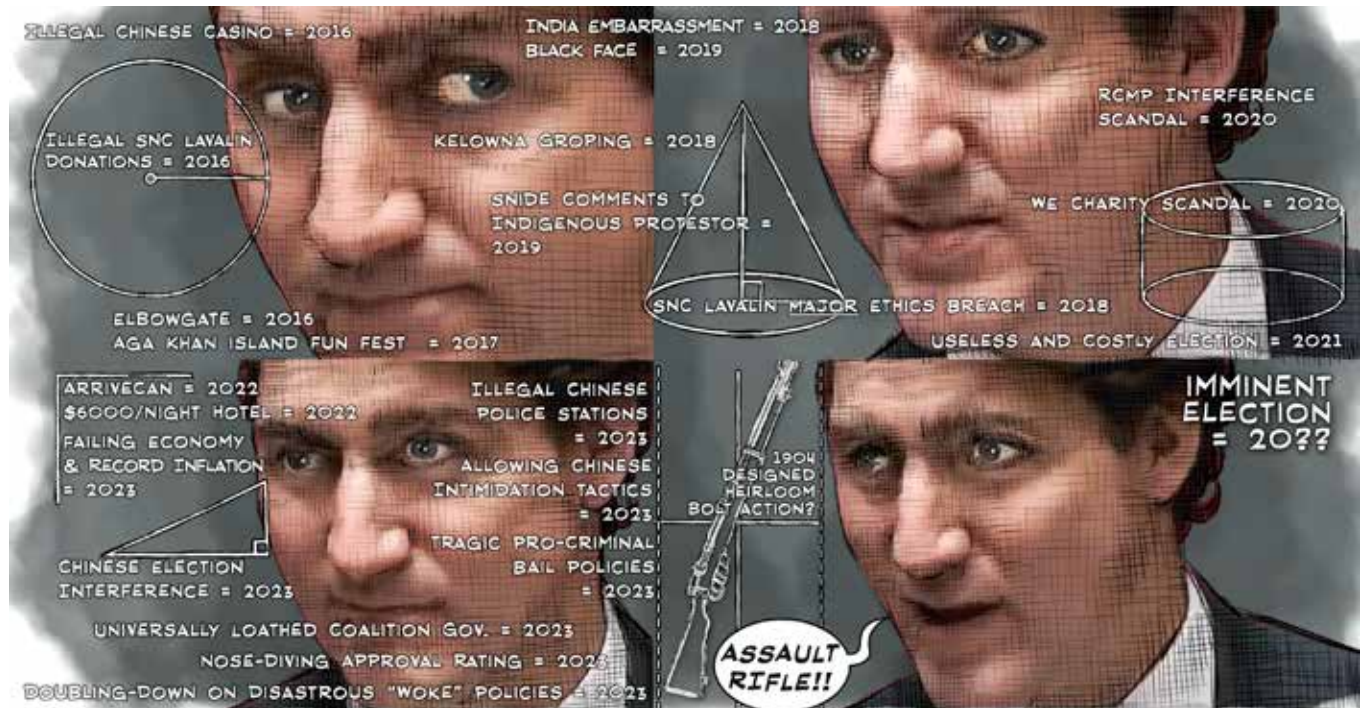
### THREE BASIC PROBLEMS WITH THE FOCUS ON GUNS

Since everything criminals do with guns, including mere possession, is already illegal, establishing an elaborate system to micro-manage what guns are legal creates laws that in practice apply only to the law-abiding. Any anti-violent-crime policy which by design only impacts the law-abiding will have no impact on violent criminals. The reality is that 97 per cent of violent crime does not involve firearms and 80 per cent

of firearm crime is with illegal guns. Accordingly, this multi-billion-dollar gun control system, even assuming it all works, will only address .6 per cent of violent crime.

Diverting billions of dollars of resources away from violent criminals to engage in a crusade against the law-abiding cripples law enforcement. The endless scandals of police underfunding, cases dropped, failures of investigation, etc. are a running commentary on the cost of an expensive gun control agenda. The Liberals refuse to quantify the cost/benefits of creating and maintaining a detailed firearms database of 187,000 firearm models or how many violent crimes this has stopped.

Civil liberties, especially the right of property and due process, are seriously undermined by the precedents these anti-gun policies are establishing and expanding. The Trudeau government has established that it can seize private property from the law-abiding based on secret evidence (cabinet confidentiality), with no compensation, on the basis of a simple declaration of public need or safety. This applies to all private property in Canada and is an obvious hazard to both citizens and foreign investors. ❗



THE 'ACTUAL' METHOD USED BY THE LIBERALS TO DEVELOP THEIR NEW TECHNICAL FIREARMS DEFINITIONS.

# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## Tribute To A Cowboy Artisan

Walter Ostin was an artistic leather worker of incredible talent. He is still renowned for crafting fully carved decorative gun rigs, which have been purchased by old west firearms enthusiasts, performers, re-enactors and cowboy action competitive shooters.

Walter came from humble beginnings; he was born during the Great Depression in borderline dust bowl Saskatchewan. He was the oldest son born into the family of Sasha and Mike Ostoforoff, November 29, 1933. The district they lived in had been settled by Ukrainian and Russian immigrants, so most of the inhabitants were multi-lingual. The family had a farm in Arran, Sask.; however, they fell on hard times, lost that farm and moved to Benito, Man., when Walter was a toddler.

The family worked hard and as Walter grew up, he learned to do farm work, but also became familiar with leather work by repairing harnesses as the family farmed using horse power. To add to the drama of their hard-bitten existence, Walter's father had issues and was an intermittent parent. Walter's mother, Walter and younger brother Ralph persevered as their work ethic was outstanding, with the father re-appearing from time to time.

As the family's lives unfolded, there were always obstacles in their way. The next tragedy was Mike's sudden death in 1948, leaving the family entirely without a husband and father. The entire burden of working the farm was left to mother Sasha, Walter, age 15, Ralph, age 11, and baby James at 14 months. So, Walter rose up and became the lead hand, working diligently, saving his money and caring for the family.

Walter was creative, artistic and dedicated, and slowly the groundwork for his future vocation flourished. Walter made his first gun rig for his younger brother, carving two six guns out of wood. He painted the six guns silver and his brother spent countless hours



Walt with a Lone Ranger rig he fabricated

playing with this gun and holster set. Then Walter's biggest project emerged. Walter made a saddle -- he carved the wood tree by hand and meticulously fitted it to his horse. He used cast-off materials from worn leather coats and old, used harness leather for stirrup leathers and rigging to finish the project. His natural artistic skills began to emerge.

Walter's only diversion was after work on Saturday afternoons, when he would saddle his horse and ride to Benito where they screened "B" westerns in the community hall. There, his boyhood fantasies would come to life on the silver screen, with Colonel Tim McCoy, Tom Mix, Hopalong Cassidy, Roy Rogers and Gene Autry firing up teenage Walter's imagination. He was drawn to the fancy outfits and the superbly carved gun rigs, plus the nickel-plated Colts worn by the stars. Walter was a fierce worker and financially prudent and by the age of 18 was able to build a house for his mother in Kamsack, Sask.

By the mid-1950s, Walter was independent and, after learning the welding trade and multiple other skills, became a highly skilled tradesman. Walter then moved to Calgary, Alta., in 1957 and changed his name to Ostin, as there was a great deal of anti-Russian feeling due to the Cold War at that time. Walter was now well employed, with his life unfolding with a degree of success. He even had a country and western band called The Rustlers.

In 1958, Walter married Pat Graydon and they had two children, Wendy and Michael. Wendy recalls her dad making burl clocks, burl tables, forged belt buckles, fireplace tools, iron planters and candelabras. Dad was pretty much able to do whatever he set his mind to.

Walter's trade skills were valuable and when opportunity called in 1972, he followed it to Gold River, BC, and then to

another opportunity in Crofton, BC.

After a lifetime of hard work and dedication to being an innovative, skilled tradesman, Walter was on the cusp to find his true calling. The “B” westerns of his youth and the TV westerns of early television were his inspiration and led him to his new career. Cowboy action shooting competitions began in 1982 and Walter was the right man in the right era. Upon retirement, Walter purchased a leather working business and all the equipment and began honing his craft skills to perfection. His artistic ability enabled Walter to create gun rigs, belts and slings that would have graced any “B” western hero’s guitar, housed their fancy nickeled, engraved Colts or would have suited any cowboy star in a TV western opus.

The carving and detail were that of a true artisan and his work became noticed, with his gun rigs gracing the pages of gun magazines and books on firearms. They even caught the attention of gun writers such as John Taffin. As Walter’s exquisite carving became recognized, cowboy action participants, re-creators and entertainers from far and wide began to wear Walt’s truly outstanding creations. Chuck Medwork, a Lone Ranger re-creator, had a custom Lone Ranger rig fabricated; Frank Calabrese, world champion gun spinner, had Walter make a fully carved and nickel-spotted belt and holster set.

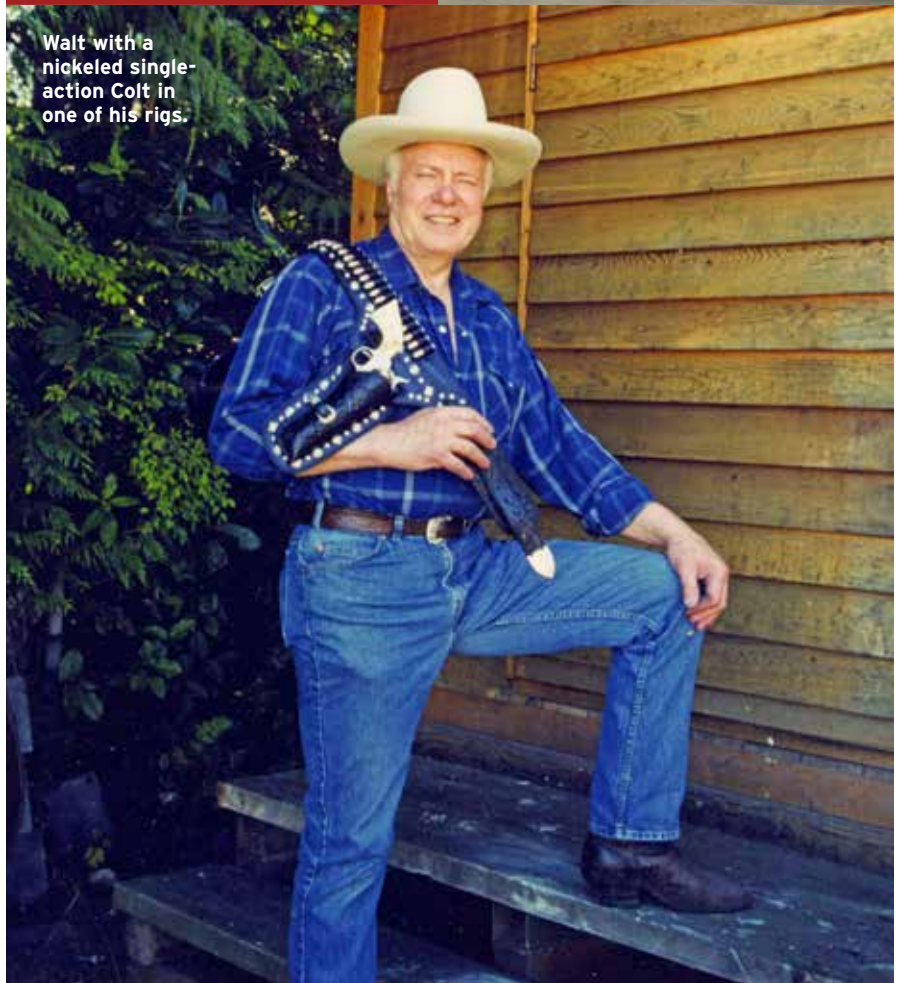
Walter was an avid attendee at cowboy action competitions, with his “B” western outfits, wonderful gun rigs and original Colts cutting quite a dashing figure as he was so well turned out. Walter was also a mentor, sharing his skills with a new generation of holster makers. But Walter was not the only artist in the family, as his two younger brothers Ralph and James became highly valued artists in their own right.

Walter passed away peacefully in Ladysmith, BC, aged 89, on Dec. 7, 2022, survived by the mother of his children, Pat, daughter Wendy, son-in-law Lance, grandchildren Noelle, Sasha and Naomi, plus their spouses and great grandchildren.

Walter was a preserver of our firearms heritage, competing with his original Colts and sharing his leather craft skills with other leather workers, including myself. Walter was also a big contributor of prizes to the cowboy action shoots by supplying his beautiful



A special two-gun rig for Frank Calabrese, champion gun spinner.



Walt with a nickeled single-action Colt in one of his rigs.

works as prizes. Walter’s work is coveted and his support of cowboy action shooting competitions will be remembered and very much appreciated. 🍷

**Sources:**

Daughter Wendy Fetchko,  
Daryl Drew







# MUZZLELOADING 101

Shooting & hunting with modern in-line muzzleloaders

*BY KEVIN WILSON*

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**A**t a time when long-range centerfire shooting is all the rage, I find it interesting that muzzleloading is more popular than ever. Today, in-line muzzleloaders have taken top position with those looking to expand their hunting opportunities, and the following is a quick dip into that fascinating world.

The term muzzleloader was coined to describe early firearms that required loading of the black powder, wadding and projectile from the muzzle. These guns were simple, slow and ballpark accurate at best.

With a desire to make a muzzle-

loader easier to use and with improved accuracy, the modern in-line was invented, and they've evolved significantly since their introduction in the 1980s. A key distinction of these firearms is a breech plug which accepts a primer. When struck, the primer ignites the propellant powder and sends the projectile — still loaded from the muzzle — on its way. These modern in-line muzzleloaders are more refined, easier to clean, far more accurate and work with more propellant and projectile options than ever before.

When in-line black-powder rifles

first hit the scene, uptake was slow, but it didn't take long to catch on. As more jurisdictions opened primitive weapon seasons and muzzleloader-only hunts, a growing number of hunters were eager to buy and use these innovative new firearms to capitalize on these opportunities. Often allowed where regulations or zoning prohibit the use of centerfire rifles, these special hunts give sportsmen extra hunting challenges. While these guns might not fall into the same category as hunting with a bow, they certainly do present distance limitations. >

## GETTING STARTED

For those looking to acquire their first in-line rifle, some shopping is in order. First choose a calibre, make and model. Muzzleloaders come in a range of sizes including .44 calibre and below; however, when we're talking about modern in-lines for hunting, the two most common are .45 and .50 calibre, with most having a 26-inch barrel. Three guns I recommend checking out include the Thompson/Center (TC) Pro Hunter FX, Traditions NitroFire, and CVA Accura V2. You can't go wrong with any of these. I have a couple different TC .50-calibre muzzleloaders and they're both deadly accurate. I've taken lots of game with them, including mule deer, caribou, whitetail and elk.

While we're at it, I would be remiss if I didn't mention one of the newest developments, the Federal Firestick system incorporated by Traditions. Essentially, it's an encased system that protects the powder from moisture, ensuring a reliable discharge even in wet conditions.

While some areas require the use of open sights, if regulations allow, a scope is preferred. I have different scopes mounted on my muzzleloaders, but my favourite is a variable Swarovski Optik Z3 3-10x42. It allows me to turn the magnification down for close shots and up for reaching out to 200 yards and beyond. On average, I'd say most of my shots are under 100 yards, so this scope is ideal.

Beyond these basics, you'll want to carry a field bag that can either be strapped over your shoulder or, more commonly, carried on your belt. This allows you to carry extra loads (bullets/sabots, propellant and primers), a small cleaning kit, bullet starter, tools and any other accessories you think you may need in the field.

## AMMUNITION

Every shot from a muzzleloader requires three components: the projectile, the propellant and a primer.

First, we'll talk about the projectile. Modern bullets with sabots are the main choice among in-line muzzleloader hunters. That said, the overwhelming number of bullet options are far too plentiful to list here, so it comes down to personal choice. To



**ABOVE: The author's go-to combination for in-line muzzleloader hunting is a 250 Barnes Spitfire T-EZ sabot backed by 150 grains (three pellets) of Pyrodex.**

point you in the right direction, for deer and antelope hunting, something like the Smackdown Carnivore, PowerBelt Platinum or the PowerBelt AeroLite in the 230- to 270-grain range are solid choices. For larger ungulates like elk and moose, the Thor Hammer and Barnes Spitfire T-EZ are great options. With these, look for a projectile that weighs around the 300-grain mark. If you're playing with long-range muzzleloading, try something like the aerodynamic PowerBelt ELR.

Then there's the propellant or powder equivalent. With a variety of options available, you can go old school and measure your propellant for each load, or you can go more high-tech with pre-formed pellets. I've done both. As a safety disclaimer, never use any kind of smokeless powder in a muzzleloader, these powders are not for use in muzzleloaders. Suitable options for in-line muzzleloading include GOEX (FFg) black powder for .45 and .50 calibre guns. Pyrodex RS or Pyrodex Select are good choices and come in loose powder form or in

pre-measured and pre-shaped pellets that fit perfectly inside your barrel in either 30-grain or 50-grain sizes. By far, pellets are the favoured and most practical choices. The key with these pellets is to ensure that the darker end goes down the barrel first, as it has a special igniter charge that accelerates ignition. Also available as pellets are IMR White Hots and Hodgdon Triple Seven. In loose powder form, the cleanest burning options include Hodgdon Triple Seven and Blackhorn 209.

As for primers, the choices are simple: stick with either Winchester 209 or CCI 209 primers and you can't go wrong.

## LOADS & LIMITS

I use 50-grain Pyrodex pellets, mostly because the price is right, they're easy to get and they work well in my muzzleloaders. I've done a bunch of testing and determined I get the best accuracy using three pellets (150 grains) and a Barnes T-EZ sabot with a Winchester 209 primer for ignition. This combination shoots very well for me.

A few safety considerations to remember if you're new to in-line muzzleloading: Always make sure there's no primer positioned in the breech when storing and transporting your firearm. Always load the propellant first, with your barrel positioned vertically. Again, if using



**LEFT:** Always load the propellant first, with the barrel positioned vertically.

**BELOW:** Use a short starter rod to get the bullet/sabot combination seated into the muzzle.

**BOTTOM:** Inserting the primer is the final step in loading an in-line muzzleloader.

pellets, make sure the darker end goes in first and then load the projectile/sabot combination. Use a starter rod to get it seated at the muzzle, then use the ramrod to push consistently until it's seated snug against the propellant. Once the primer is placed in the breech, it is loaded. Regardless of what stage you are at during the loading process, ensure that you keep your head away from the muzzle as you seat the projectile.

#### ACCURACY TIPS

While modern in-line muzzleloaders are fairly efficient, there is still a minor delay before discharge and bullet velocity is slower than from a centerfire barrel. For this reason, I recommend using a rest. At the range, I may use a variety of Caldwell bags or even a bipod, but for hunting I almost always use a Harris bipod.

As for shot execution, shoot like you do with a centerfire, but do it better. In other words, form and biomechanics of the shot sequence matter. The millisecond delay in discharge makes all the difference in the world. Aiming, trigger control, breathing, grabbing cheek meat on the comb of the stock and follow-through matter when it comes to downrange accuracy. I



remember missing a giant buck one time because I treated my muzzleloader like a centerfire rifle. I failed to aim properly, pause my breathing, time the bounce, squeeze the trigger and follow through with my shot. In other words, I peeked and paid the price with a clean miss.

#### CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Properly cleaning and maintaining your muzzleloader is imperative. Powder is highly corrosive and leaves a lot of residues. Left dirty for any significant length of time, it can damage all parts of the firearm it covers. For this reason, even if you've discharged it only once, it's good practice to thoroughly clean a muzzleloader at the end of each day.

In my experience, a clean and well lubed barrel receives a sabot very well. After the first shot, it gets a bit tight, but with some coaxing and a firm but constant push with the ramrod, the second seats well. Then, by the third round, the buildup can create a lot of friction. A quick field clean with a brush and patch soaked in solvent, followed by a couple of clean patches, can wipe away enough debris to shoot another few rounds.

When you're finished, it's simply a matter of removing the breech plug, soaking it in solvent and brushing away all of the carbon and residue left. Be thorough and make it shine like new. To clean the bore, I attach a bore brush, stick the muzzle in a bucket full of soapy water, push the brush down the barrel from the breech and run it back and forth until it shines inside. I then repeat with clean, dry patches and, to be certain, I also run a round of patches soaked in solvent, then dry again. After that, I run a couple of patches with barrel lubricant through the barrel to properly coat and protect it. I then dry the breech hole by blowing pressurized air through it from back to front and lubricate all of the threads before reassembly. Never put your muzzleloader away for storage wet or before it is entirely cleaned.

While muzzleloading firearms are a step back in time, the in-line variety are modern enough to be reliable and efficient. That makes them a lot of fun too. 🏆

# PRESSURE POINTS

Temperature's effect on cartridge performance

*BY LOWELL STRAUSS*





Smokeless powders like IMR-4831 are known to be temperature sensitive.

**M**y favourite hunting load surprised me, and not in a good way. It was a hot August afternoon and I was checking my rifle's zero before an early-season elk hunt. Beads of sweat rolled down my forehead as I prepared my rifle and ammunition, but the promise of cool September mornings and bugling bulls kept me focused. After the first shot downrange, I knew something was wrong. A sticky bolt on a rifle is never a good sign. And the evidence on the case confirmed my suspicions — high pressure! Two more shots with similar symptoms and I called it quits before my luck ran out.

Temperature differences can change smokeless powder burn rates, though some powders are more affected than others. Does this temperature sensitivity matter? Does it affect accuracy or shift the point of impact? Is it dangerous when the pressure goes too high? Which powders are the least temperature sensitive? These are all critical questions worth considering if you're a handloader.

#### WHAT IS TEMPERATURE SENSITIVITY?

All powders experience faster or slower burn rates based on temperature. During the firing sequence, the primer ignites the powder, causing a reaction that creates expanding gas, pushing the bullet down the barrel. These chemical reactions occur faster at warmer temperatures. Faster reactions create more pressure and, ultimately, more velocity. In cold temperatures, the opposite is true and performance suffers.

Bullet velocities may vary substantially with traditional-style powders, especially in extreme temperatures. Alliant's Reloader line is one example of many types of powders where temperature extremes affect the load's pressure and velocity. Over the past 30 years, new powders like Hodgdon's Extreme line, Winchester's StaBALL family and IMR Enduron offer excellent temperature stability, providing what is essentially an all-weather load for your rifle. Advanced powders like these often provide other benefits, like reduced copper fouling, easy metering and good load density.

So, with newer, "better" powders, why would you choose anything else? Well, those old-school powders produce excellent accuracy, can be less expensive and easier to source. When you use your ammunition within the load's appropriate temperature range, there is no need to switch. It's like switching between summer and winter tires for the best performance in hot and cold conditions.

#### DOES TEMPERATURE STABILITY MATTER?

The answer to this question depends on a few things.

Safety is number one in my books, and when developing a reliable load, temperature sensitivity is critically important. Imagine this: You develop a load for a safari rifle in the cold Canadian winter. After finding a load that works, you take it to Africa, where the temperature is 50 degrees Celsius different than back home. If your load was at max during development, it could be overpressure in the heat. With extreme pressure, cases split and separate, primers rupture, damaging your bolt face, or sometimes hot gas escapes >

and burns the shooter! Not good.

Since my educational day at the range, I cautiously approach maximum charges. My 7mm Rem Mag pet load used IMR 4831 and showed no evidence of high pressure in the winter. Reloading manuals list a max powder charge for a reason, and most recommend starting 10 per cent below this threshold and working up. Because every rifle is slightly different, pressure signs can develop below the maximum charge or, conversely, not at all. So, I didn't throw the baby out with the bathwater. This load wasn't built for the sultry days of summer, and I was confident it would still be fine for hunting season weather in Canada.

Does it matter for hunting? Maybe. Another concern with temperature-sensitive powder is a shift in the point of impact (POI). Logic tells us that changes in muzzle velocity will cause higher or lower impacts on the target. In practicality, POI shifts can be in any direction from the centre. I've recorded shifts of up to 1.5 inches on different days at the range. In shooting, there are many variables in play and ammunition temperature is but one. For the hunter inside 300 metres, you are unlikely miss your target due to this type of POI shift (though it makes an excellent excuse). Most range sessions start with zeroing -- correcting for range-day environmental conditions. With a rifle dialed in and modest shooting distances, slightly higher or lower velocities are somewhat irrelevant. The slower-impact velocities and resulting terminal ballistics are of greater importance to hunters.

However, accounting for velocity fluctuations at long distances is critical for first-round hits. I once attended an extreme long-range competition in the Nevada desert. Extreme long-range distances start at about 1,500 metres, where even slight variations in velocity cause a miss. Many competitors used foam-insulated ammunition boxes to protect their ammunition and buffer the ambient air temperature. Shooters also monitored muzzle velocities with a barrel-mounted chronograph. Hitting at extreme distances is difficult and competitors try to remove as much guesswork as possible. I'm willing to bet that these top competitors use temperature-stable powders to negate the effects of this critical variable.

## NOTES & NUMBERS

I use a reloading and shooting journal. It jogs my memory and helps me understand changes in accuracy. In addition to the typical journal notes, I record environmental factors, including temperature, relative humidity and atmospheric pressure. With adequate field notes, predicting POI shifts due to the temperature is possible.

We can all agree that temperature stability (or lack thereof) is real. But how much and at what rate does velocity increase or decrease based on temperature? Or, for that matter, is it a linear relationship or an exponential change?

There are several well-written articles on the subject and I encourage you to research the subject more. When measuring the effects of temperature on ammunition, the challenge faced is controlling the other variables for an apples-to-apples comparison. I've tested ammunition in the summertime, starting by freezing it and then transporting it to the range in a cooler with ice packs; then, for comparison, I heat ammunition inside my truck.

I've tested the same loads in the summer and winter, comparing the results. The outcomes are usually different. The hot-weather freeze test yields different results because of air density, humidity, rifle temperature and more change between shooting sessions. I've noted POI shifts too, but is that a result of the powder or the environmental variables? It's hard to tease these apart.

Nevertheless, testing ammunition for temperature sensitivity is worthwhile for every shooter serious about

accuracy. I returned to my favourite big game load and tried to duplicate the results in two seasons: winter's cold and summer's heat.

I loaded 10 rounds with Hodgdon's Retumbo, a temperature-stable powder, and another 10 with IMR-4831, which I've noted is temperature sensitive. I used a 162-grain Hornady SST in the ammunition test. According to Hodgdon online loading data, IMR-4831 has 12 per cent more pressure with a starting charge and 15 per cent higher at max than Retumbo. From these numbers, it's easy to see how increased temperature with the IMR powder could cause excessive pressure.

The IMR-4831 summer (28 degrees Celsius) average muzzle velocity was 2,885 feet per second, while its -20 degrees Celsius average velocity was 2,798 — an 87 feet per second difference. Retumbo had a summer average muzzle velocity of 2,951 feet per second versus 2,943 in winter — a nine feet per second difference.

## TEMPERATURE SENSITIVITY WORKAROUNDS

If knowledge is power, then understanding the ballistics of a temperature-sensitive powder lets you use a favourite powder and still get the expected performance and accuracy from it.

A temperature-stable powder is the easiest solution to level out velocity drops or spikes due to pressure. This isn't always possible. Today's handloaders know all too well the problems with powder and primer availability. Several Hodgdon's Extreme powders



Load development and testing in the winter may yield different results in the heat of summer.



**Developing a load for the winter and another for the summer is one way to get around issues with temperature-sensitive powders.**

were sold out at the time of writing. If an Extreme powder isn't available, then stick with the tried-and-true.

During load development, approximate the shooting conditions where you'll use the load — a summer load for warm weather and a winter load for cold weather. And try using different bullets (label and keep notes) so they don't get mixed up.

'Cooking' ammunition in a hot chamber exaggerates the effects of temperature sensitivity. In competition, leave the bolt open when possible and shoot quickly after the round is chambered; otherwise, it may exhibit similar results as hot air temperatures.

Protecting ammunition, keeping it cool and out of the sun and in an insulated box improves shot-to-shot consistency. Likewise, avoid storing ammunition inside a hot vehicle in sweltering weather. In the winter, keeping cartridges warm is the challenge — keeping a loaded magazine in a pocket helps to a degree.

#### **PARTING SHOTS**

Ammunition temperature sensitivity is real. Whether it's a little or a lot depends on the powder type and its temperature when fired. Mostly, it's not a big deal; it's just another variable in the ballistic calculation.

I love good surprises, like superb accuracy. On the other hand, an over-pressure load scares me; it's a shock I can live without. I learn something every time I visit the range to squeeze a trigger. And on a blistering day in August, I learned the critical relationship between temperature and pressure. 🍷



**Shots at extreme distances require the shooter to use temperature-stable powders and/or carefully track muzzle velocity.**





# BARREL BREAK-IN

An important process or a waste of time and money?

BY T.J. SCHWANKY

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If you want to start an argument on the Internet, just pose the question as to whether barrel break-in on a new rifle is necessary. There aren't many Internet experts in the middle on this discussion, but most barrel makers and gunsmiths seem to agree that it's not a bad idea.

If you're unfamiliar with the term, it typically involves a regime of shooting and cleaning the barrel of a new rifle at certain intervals. This can range from one shot to 10 shots in a string, then clean and repeat several times. There are many schools of thought on what bullets are best to use during the break-in and what solvents are best, at least for those that buy into the process. The rationale behind the process is that it will improve accuracy and extend the life of the barrel. On the other side is a group that figures it's just a waste of time and ammunition.

Most high-quality barrels are lapped after the rifling is cut, ensuring a near perfectly smooth surface. But truthfully, it's never perfect and nearly all rifles will see an increase in velocity after the first 100 to 200 rounds are fired. That increase can run from 20

feet per second to reports I've seen of nearly 100 feet per second, but I've personally never experienced more than about 40 feet per second. I believe the velocity increase is in direct proportion to the quality of the barrel.

With all barrels, there are toolmarks left on the rifling and the high number of rounds going through the barrel undoubtedly has a lapping effect. Poorer-quality barrels or those not lapped will have the most toolmarks. The more toolmarks, the greater the drag on the bullet and the slower the barrel will be. As the bullets lap these marks out, drag decreases and velocity increases, but it will also require more rounds through the poor-quality barrel before velocity stabilizes. Velocity will not continue to increase over the life of the barrel, but it will stabilize within those first few hundred rounds. Barrel material also plays a role. Chrome-moly barrels are much harder than stainless barrels and require a greater number of rounds through them before velocity stabilizes.

So, in essence, there is an actual barrel break-in, but few break-in pro-

cedures call for 100-plus rounds and it's most likely this increase in velocity will happen regardless of a proper break-in regime, with fairly regular cleaning of course.

No, it's not the barrel that is the main focus during a more regimented break-in, but rather the chamber throat. This is often cut by a machine and is not included in the lapping process. It's here that microscopic burrs can also be left and these will rapidly build up with copper from bullet jackets in the first shots through the rifle. It seems the bulk of top barrel manufacturers agree with this and suggest some break-in routine to prevent this initial copper build up and to hone those burrs in the throat more quickly.

A few years ago, I sat in on a seminar that Kenny Jarrett, of Jarrett Rifles, put on and he showed a number of borescope photos of new barrels that were unfired and of ones that had a handful of rounds through them, and it left little doubt that not only these tiny burrs existed, but that they quickly became fouled with copper. These were barrels from high-end manufacturers ▶

that were being used on his custom rifles. If you've ever met Kenny, you'll know he isn't one to mince words and he wasn't shy about telling the naysayers they were wrong, and he had pretty convincing photographic evidence to back it up. He convinced me.

So, what does barrel, or more correctly, throat break-in involve? I like to use fairly heavy-for-calibre bullets with a round-nose profile for the first 20 shots. These bullets have the most surface area and I believe they achieve the desired results fastest. Typically, I just use the most inexpensive ammunition or bullets I can find, as the only purpose of the first 20 rounds is to act as a hone.

Begin by following a pattern of firing one shot and then cleaning. Depending on the amount of copper build up, I will do this for the first five to 10 rounds. Your patches will be your guide as to when to move on to the next step. Don't be surprised if they come out quite blue for the first two or three rounds. It may take several patches soaked in a quality copper solvent for each cleaning between single shots. Be certain to clean until your final patch is free of copper before moving onto the next shot. This can be a lengthy process, but it will pay dividends in the long run. You can move onto step two once you start seeing minimal or no evidence of copper on the first patch run through the barrel after a single shot.

For step two, fire three rounds in succession before stopping to clean. This should be repeated at least twice before moving on to step three, and again, if you are seeing excessive amounts of copper on your patches, you can do it up to four or five times. As with the single-shot step one, clean between each three-shot group until the patches come out free of copper. As with the previous step, you can move onto step three once you start seeing minimal or no evidence of copper on the first patch run through the barrel after a three-shot string.

For the final step, this is likely a good time to switch to the ammunition you plan to shoot out of the rifle, or at least use it as an opportunity to test some ammunition to see what your rifle shoots best. You can do double duty here and begin the sight-in process as you continue the break-in process. In this step, shoot five rounds between

**RIGHT:**  
Barrels will get faster after the first 100 to 200 shots. Tracking velocity will reveal when it has stabilized.

**BELOW:** Clean between shot strings, until patches come out clean and copper free.



cleaning, with this typically only requiring two five-shot strings before the barrel is considered broken in. Again, let your patches tell the story as to when you can stop. Be certain not to heat the barrel excessively when shooting these five shot groups in succession.

Once a barrel is broken in, it only needs to be cleaned every 20 or so rounds. Cleaning, while a fairly

simple process, does require a fair amount of time to do properly, but it is time well invested as it will ensure long barrel life. The first step in barrel cleaning is to get the powder residue out. For this, I like a product like Shooter's Choice MC#7 or something similar. Bolt-action and single-shot rifles should be cleaned from the breech and, in the case of a bolt-action, get yourself a rod guide.



**LEFT: At step three of barrel break-in, take the opportunity to zero your rifle and test loads.**

**BELOW: Barrel break-in doesn't need to be tedious, have some fun shooting targets while doing it.**



the barrel and work it slowly back and forth for the entire length of the barrel five or six times; then remove the rod and discard the patch. Now run two more soaked patches through the barrel, followed by two dry patches to get all the cleaner out.

The next step is to use a copper cleaner, and for this I prefer Sweet's 7.62 Solvent or something similar. Using the same nylon brush wrapped with a patch soaked with Sweet's, run it through the barrel once and allow the solvent to sit no more than 10 minutes. Allowing it to sit longer can actually damage your rifling. Once 10 minutes has elapsed, run a couple dry patches through the barrel. If they show a lot of copper build up, use the Sweet's one more time. After 10 minutes, run a couple more dry patches through the bore. Now the rifle is ready to be shot, or if you're going to store it for a period of time, run a patch with a small amount of oil on it through the barrel. For this, I use G96 Complete Gun Treatment. It's always a good idea to run one dry patch through the barrel before shooting a rifle if it's been stored with oil in it.

This plastic guide simply slides into the action once the bolt is removed to ensure the rod enters the barrel without damaging it. Also ensure you are using a quality one-piece coated cleaning rod to avoid doing any damage to the throat or rifling.

I will not put a bronze or brass brush in my barrel, but instead I use nylon brushes exclusively. I like to get a nylon brush that is several calibres

smaller than the barrel and wrap a cotton patch soaked in the Shooter's Choice around it. For example, if I'm cleaning a 30-06, I'll use a .25 calibre nylon brush with a .30 calibre patch wrapped around it. Run the first wet patch completely through the bore and remove the patch. Pull the rod out and attach another patch to the brush and soak it again with Shooter's Choice. Now insert this patch into

While there will never be 100 per cent consensus on barrel break-in. At the very least, it can do no harm and, best-case scenario, your barrel will last longer and your firearm will see improved accuracy. It's a process I go through with every new rifle and I've seen enough evidence to believe it's time well invested. 🍀



Remington.

**360**  
BUCKHAMMER

**CORE-LOKT**



20 CENTERFIRE  
RIFLE CARTRIDGES  
CARTRIDGES À PERCUSSION CENTRALE



PROUDLY LOADED IN THE USA  
BY AMERICAN WORKERS



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# IT'S NEW!

The art & science of developing new cartridges

BY JEFF HELSDON

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Every year, often at the SHOT Show, much hype surrounds the launch of new cartridges from ammunition manufacturers. The last 30 years have seen 129 cartridges approved by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute (SAAMI), the industry group that approves manufacturing specifications for ammunition companies. Some succeed but many more fail, making picking winners and losers of what will catch on akin to predicting the stock market.

The thinking and development behind new cartridges varies with each one, but there are some similarities. I spoke with four different manufacturers to get an idea of the process involved in bringing a new cartridge design to the marketplace.

## HORNADY'S WINNER

The story behind the development of what is definitely the most successful cartridge of the 2000s, the 6.5mm Creedmoor, is well known.

"Essentially, the cartridge was born

after years of match shooting by our senior ballistic scientist, Dave Emary," said Seth Swerczek of Hornady. "Dennis Demille of Creedmoor Sports and Dave had conversations about what the best across-the-course cartridge would be. Dave and the Hornady engineering team necked down the new-at-the-time 30 T/C that Dave had also designed."

There were a few criteria for the new cartridge:

- Low recoil
- Accurate bullets with a flat trajectory and high ballistic coefficient
- Able to fit in short magazines
- Long barrel life
- Readily available reloading components

Introduced in 2007, the 6.5 Creedmoor took a while to catch on, but when it did, it quickly rose to the ranks as a favoured — and sometimes hated — new calibre. In the time since, Hornady has necked down the 6.5 Creedmoor to 6mm and also hopped up the 6.5 bore size with the 6.5 PRC.

Asked about the development process, Swerczek said it's actually done backwards. He says their technicians in cartridge development go through a series of questions, such as what the job is the new cartridge will do, what bullets will be used do that job and how fast do the bullets need to go.

"Once we isolate those questions, in that order, we can identify the correct cartridge dimensions to achieve those velocities," he said.

Identifying the job the cartridge will do, or in other words, finding a target in the marketplace, is done by a development team comprised of hunters, shooters and competitors. Since Hornady does not manufacture rifles, development is done in conjunction with rifle manufacturers.

"We have a close relationship with many prominent gun builders in the industry," Swerczek said. "We assist them as much as they assist us. In most cases, we ship out test ammunition and chamber reamers and gauges to the builders to get them started." ▶

## REMINGTON'S NEW LEVER CARTRIDGE

The evolution of the 360 Remington Buckhammer came about in a different way, being driven by increasing sales of straight-walled cartridges, in American states which allow these as an alternative to shotgun slugs for hunting, and the rising popularity of lever guns.

Joel Hodgdon, Remington's public relations director, explained that as hunters themselves, they keep on top of hunting trends and noticed the increasing volume of 350 Legend and 450 Bushmaster sales.

"We noticed that if you want to shoot a straight-walled cartridge, there's some great applications for ARs and some handguns but no lever cartridge," he said. "Growing up in Kansas, when I think whitetail, I think lever gun."

Jon Langenfeld, Remington product engineering manager, grew up in Illinois, which is considered a shotgun state. He said most people have a Winchester Model 94 or Marlin 336 but couldn't use them for deer hunting because the abundant 30-30 Win isn't a straight-wall cartridge.

In designing the Buckhammer, Langenfeld said the development crew decided, "...to go after the 30-30 and what makes it popular, including the energy level and the recoil level." So, the parent case for the 360 Buckhammer is a 30-30 Win with the shoulders straightened out to create a .35 calibre (.358-inch) cartridge. The end result is a cartridge with more velocity and energy than the 30-30 Win or 450 Bushmaster and it shoots flatter with less recoil.

He went into a few details about the development process, saying a careful eye needed to be kept on case length as there are restrictions on this in some states. The team identified an ideal velocity and evaluated modern propellants which could produce this. Then they looked at the pressures produced to see where the accuracy might be. Barrel twist was another factor, as heavy-for-calibre bullets may be a feature for this cartridge in the future; however, the end recommendation was a rifling twist of 1-in-12.

After the bullets were evaluated in ballistic gelatin for expansion and



**ABOVE: The Remington engineering team shooting some prototype 360 Buckhammer cartridges**

**RIGHT: The 26 Nosler was designed to fill a gap at the upper end of the 6.5mm calibre line.**



penetration, the 360 Buckhammer was taken to the field where it was tested on deer, Canadian black bears, Texan game farm animals and was even taken to Africa.

### NOSLER UPS THE ANTE

Seeing the popularity of 6.5 mm cartridges, Nosler decided to look into a speedier version.

"For years, even decades, the Nosler family wanted to introduce a rifle cartridge, so they tasked our R&D

engineering manager with developing one," said Zach Waterman, public relations manager for Nosler. "After several different prototypes, he came up with the 26 Nosler."

"Our engineers decided to shorten a Remington Ultra Magnum case enough to fit in a long action, steepen the shoulder angle to 35 degrees and neck it down to fit a 6.5mm bullet," he said. "With a 140-grain bullet, the 264 Win Mag has nearly 80 grains of case capacity and with the same bullet, the



whitetail. We leveraged several different manufacturing strengths we have to bring that new calibre to market with a stable of diverse projectile offerings."

Winchester's other recent hunting calibre is the 6.8 Western, a cartridge that provided more power than the 6.5 Creedmoor.

"The 6.8 Western filled a different need in that we have maximized the performance attributes in a short action, allowing for high ballistic coefficient, heavy-for-calibre bullets while incorporating modern cartridge design methods," Moore said.

Winchester goes through lab and field testing as others in the industry do. Moore gave a high-level overview of the process once the concept for a cartridge is identified. "The development process can vary depending on the end use and application. With an all-new calibre, we like to get firearm partners involved early to optimize features critical to performance. Once we like where we are and meet the performance criteria, the cartridge will be introduced to SAAMI, where partners and competitors in the firearms and ammunition industry will thoroughly review and vet the design for safety, compatibility, and other factors. Assuming all goes well it gets voted on for approval by the SAAMI members at the next biannual meeting."

#### TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF NEW CALIBRES

As hunters and shooters, we must go through a careful process when choosing a gun in a new calibre. Take my experiences with the 6.5 Creedmoor as an example; it's fun to shoot, highly accurate and now popular enough there are no fears of it fading into obscurity. Caution is warranted though because picking a cartridge which doesn't catch on can end in frustration. The latest cartridge design can create challenges in finding ammunition and it can be expensive. My grandfather went down that road when he purchased a Winchester 1907 in 351 Winchester. Although thousands of these guns were made, the calibre was only chambered in one gun and ammunition is now scarce. As in the stock market, there are winners and losers. 🍀

**ABOVE:** Development of a new hunting cartridge, like Winchester's 400 Legend, includes using it to harvest deer.

**LEFT:** Introducing a new cartridge like Hornady's 6.5 Creedmoor requires close coordination with rifle manufacturers, as well as provision for handloading tools and components.



26 Nosler has 93 grains, so a much larger fuel tank and a muzzle velocity increase of roughly 300 feet per second make for an ultra-flat-shooting cartridge.

"There was an immense amount of testing with load data, muzzle velocities, pressures, accuracy, barrel life and manufacturing capability," Waterman continued. "The 26 Nosler, for example, has a fat body with a .528-inch measurement just below the shoulder that tapers to just .297 inches at the top of the shoulder/base of the neck. That's a long way to taper brass in a short amount of time, so there was a lot of research and development in getting this cartridge capable of mass production, approved by SAAMI and consumer ready."

The 28 Nosler, which is a necked up 26 Nosler, followed. Nosler does manufacture its own guns, but the cartridges have caught on with other

manufacturers chambering guns for Nosler cartridges, with the 28 Nosler being the most popular.

#### WINCHESTER CREATES A LEGEND

Winchester led the industry with the innovation of the first straight-walled cartridge designed for hunters in those restrictive states when it introduced the 350 Legend. The 400 Legend followed this year.

When asked about the concept for the 350 Legend, Will Moore, head of new product development at Winchester, answered, "Most of us at Winchester are hunters and shooters ourselves, so we all have a general sense of what spaces are crowded or might not be ripe for a new calibre. The 350 Legend filled a huge gap in the market with respect to a straight-wall cartridge compliant to existing regulations, affordable, easy to shoot and yet still terminally effective on

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# CANADA'S NEW SNIPER RIFLE

Sako and Steiner combine to create the C21

*BY JUSTIN FOSTER*





With a Canadian sniper team holding the longest-recorded sniper kill in the world and two other Canadian teams having spots in the top six of that list, Canadian sniper teams are no strangers to the craft.

In the interest of keeping on the cutting edge of weapon platforms and lethality, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) have elected to change their medium-range sniper weapon system to a rifle that is lighter, more adjustable to the shooter and capable of employing multiple cartridges within the same weapon system. That new rifle is the Sako TRG M10.

#### WHY THE CHANGE?

After 18 years, the CAF has elected to replace their medium-range sniper weapon system. The rifle currently filling this role is the C14 PGW Defence Technologies-built Timberwolf, which came standard with a five-

round detachable box magazine and weighed in at 7.1 kilograms (15.6 pounds) unloaded. The C14 Timberwolf has been the primary sniper rifle in the CAF and a crowd favourite amongst the sniper community. The C14 was the first sniper rifle in the CAF chambered in 338 Lapua Magnum. The stark performance difference between the 338 Lapua Magnum and the old standby 7.62x51mm NATO led to additional effective range and penetration.

So why the change, you ask? Just as the C14 Timberwolf replaced the 7.62x51mm NATO chambered C3A1 Parker-Hale Model 82 sniper system in 2005, the service life of the Timberwolf has come to an end in the eyes of the CAF. On June 10, 2022, Minister of National Defence Anita Anand announced that the CAF will receive 229 new sniper rifle systems they are calling the C21.

#### WHAT IS THE C21?

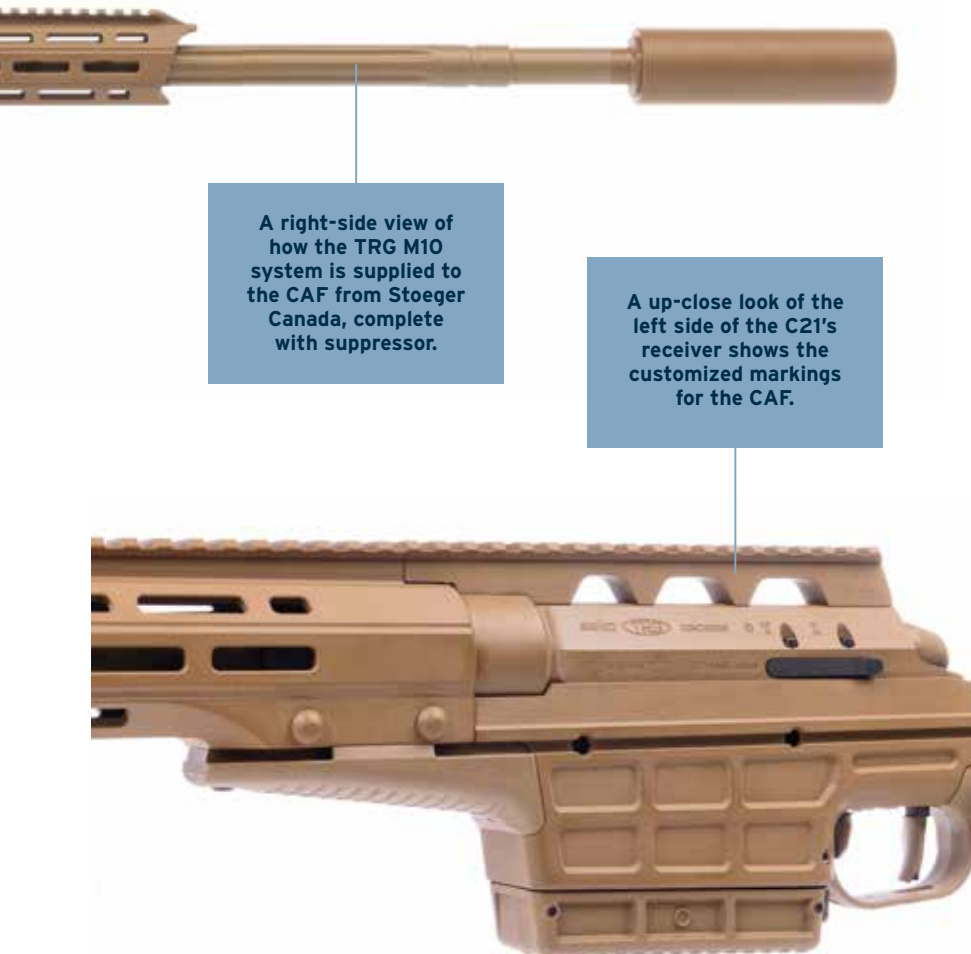
The C21 is a Sako TRG M10 rifle system, which many civilian sport shooters will recognize. As many know, the Sako TRG M10 is a modified version of the popular Sako TRG 42. Most civilians familiar with the TRG 42 know it is a multi-calibre rifle system capable of quickly changing barrels, bolts and magazines, essentially making an entirely new rifle when the shooter dictates a need for a different cartridge. In 2011, Sako started offering the TRG M10, marketed initially as a military and law enforcement-only rifle system based on the civilian TRG 42. The TRG M10 has a different receiver and other small design features that differ from the civilian TRG 42. The CAF selected the TRG M10 as the successful applicant in their multi-caliber sniper weapon (MCSW) competition. The CAF has elected to make two cartridges for the C21 system standard, using both the 7.62x51mm NATO and 338 Lapua Magnum cartridges with the C21 kit.

#### C21 VERSUS C14

If you are a gun nerd like me, I'm sure you're thinking the Sako TRG 42 rifle has been available since 1999 and the M10 version since 2011. While the Sako TRG M10 is far from new, it does offer a few advantages over the legendary C14 Timberwolf.

The main advantage the C21 will provide over the C14 is the flexibility to adapt to the mission at hand. This is accomplished through a number of seemingly small attributes of the M10 system, but it allows for significant gains downrange.

First, the ability to change cartridges within the same weapon system is a positive change, allowing snipers to not only use the same rifle in a different cartridge, but it also allows them to practice with a lighter-recoiling 7.62x51mm NATO round instead of the 338 Lapua Magnum. The 7.62x51mm cartridge is much more cost effective to train with, being approximately one-third the price of the larger 338 Lapua Magnum. It also allows the sniper teams to train on limited-distance ranges. This is all compounded by the fact that the platform remains the same, allowing the continuation of familiarity and honing of weapon manipulation skills specific to the C21. >





The folding buttstock of the TRG M10 offers easy adjustability to the shooter's preference and comfort, as well as the ability to fold for easier transport.

The ability to customize the fit of the rifle to the shooter through the easily adjustable buttstock portion of the M10 is a noticeable change for the CAF sniper units. Many civilian shooters have seen the PGW Timberwolf with an adjustable and folding chassis system, but that is not how the rifle is issued for CAF sniper units. Instead, the CAF utilized a McMillian A5 stock. Nothing against the A5 stock, as it is legendary in its own right, but customizing the fit of the stock to the shooter took a lot more effort and was met with some limitations.

Not only is the TRG M10 more adjustable to the shooter, but it also offers the ability to fold the chassis' buttstock right behind the receiver tang and allows for a smaller footprint when being transported. Packability is a significant consideration for sniper teams, as they often operate in remote areas for days or weeks on end.

With the rifle change comes weight savings as well. The TRG M10 has an unloaded weight of 6.5 kilograms (14.3 pounds) in the 338 Lapua Magnum configuration and just six kilograms (13.2 pounds) in the 7.62x51mm NATO configuration. Assuming most missions will be conducted in the 338 Lapua Magnum configuration, that is a weight savings of 0.6 kilograms (1.3 pounds) over the C14 Timberwolf. To some,

0.6 kilograms might not seem like a lot of weight, but the weapon system is not the only piece of kit sniper teams ruck in with when deployed. When snipers can shave weight off of their kit without compromising performance, it allows for less fatigue on the sniper teams, allowing them to ruck further and be more alert when downrange, which is a win in anyone's books.

With the weight savings the C21 system has over the C14, you'll be pleasantly surprised to learn there were no performance trade-offs. In fact, the C21 has a larger magazine capacity of eight in the 338 Lapua Magnum configuration compared to the C14's five, and 11 in the 7.62x51mm NATO configuration. The expanded ammunition capacity will include the use of both regular and armor-piercing rounds. The weight savings also comes with a better forend system to attach night vision and thermal optical devices in line with the rifle's optic, making low-light operations a much easier task for sniper teams in the field.

The C21 also boasts easier maintenance for armorers, with a design that allows for faster and easier repairs by being able to simply replace parts, according to a Department of National Defense press release. The same press release also claims the C21 Sako TRG M10 will have a 60 per cent longer barrel life when com-



The forend system makes the attachment of night vision and thermal optical devices in line with the rifle's optic easier than the C14.

pared to the C14.

One other major difference between the C21 and its C14 predecessor is the bolt throw. The C14 has a two-lug, 90-degree bolt throw and the new C21 has a three-lug, 60-degree bolt throw. This isn't necessarily an advantage to the C21, as there will always be two camps on this topic. Ultimately, it comes down to personal preference, but it does allow the opportunity to cycle the bolt faster for the shooter.

#### OPTICS

As many folks who shoot long-range recreationally know, the glass you run on your rifle can make or break the entire system. Previously, the CAF sniper teams were running the Schmidt & Bender PM II 5-25x56mm scope on top of the C14 Timberwolf. I reached out to the CAF to inquire if they would be running the same optic on this system or electing to go a different route.

"As for the Schmidt & Bender PM II, 5-25x56mm, this optic is being replaced through the Long-Range Telescope Project for the Steiner-Optik M7Xi 4-28x56mm and is scheduled for delivery in June of 2023. The M7Xi is nearly identical to the S&B PM II in function; however, it is slightly shorter, which will assist when fitting the rifle with ancillary optical devices such as thermal/night vision. The minimum magnification is 4x (versus the S&B 5x) and the maximum magnification is 28x (ver-

sus the S&B 25x), which will give our snipers a greater magnification range. The optic will also match the C21's colour."

#### ACCESSORIES

The C21 is scheduled to be delivered to CAF sniper teams by the end of summer 2023. When those kits finally do arrive, they will come complete with a suppressor, optical systems and a bipod. After contacting the CAF for comment, I was informed, "The suppressor is part of the C21 MCSW system, all rifles are issued with one." As for which bipod they have decided to go with, the CAF representative I talked to said, "The bipod is still being determined at this time."

#### CONCLUSION

The CAF era of the C14 Timberwolf has now come to a sunset and the new C21 TRG M10 will quickly be taking over. The operational flexibility achieved by the ability to change cartridges within the same weapon system quickly, the overall weight decrease, a folding and adjustable chassis to aid in carry and fitment to the shooter, the ability to easily adapt in-line ancillary optical devices and a larger standard magazine capacity of the C21 will certainly all be met with open arms by Canadian snipers. Hopefully, this is the start of another successful, multi-decade tenure of service for Canada's newest sniper rifle. 🇨🇦



I'm in agreement with the sentiment that a golf course is a complete waste of what could be a perfectly good shooting range. Which suggests, correctly, that I'd much rather go shooting than golfing.

Like all dedicated shooters, I value my range time and try to squeeze as much into a visit as possible. Having the right gear for a day at the range certainly increases productivity and enjoyment and, lucky for us, numerous manufacturers work hard to create the products we need. The following lists some items I've been using over the last few months and when you load the vehicle for that long-awaited range day, you'll be pleased to have this gear along.

# RANGE DAY

New gear for a great day at the range

BY AL VOTH



## 5.11 RANGE READY TRAINER BAG

A common range day spoiler is to find you've forgotten some necessary item at home. Just last week, I loaned my staple gun to a fellow at the 100-metre range who had done exactly that. I couldn't help but notice he didn't have any kind of bag or container in which to store and carry his range gear. It was all "loose."

This 50-litre bag from 5.11 is just the ticket to ensure that doesn't happen. The bag is large enough to swallow a lot of gear without being too large. It's fully padded with a hard bottom for rigidity. Zippers are lockable and have easily grabbed pull tabs. My favourite features are the width to which it opens, so there's no problem in finding items, and the moveable panels inside that allow for customization. There's lots of MOLLE attachment points, as well as interior elastic loops and Velcro-like panels for patches and ID. It's a great bag, priced at about \$185 CAD. >

#### SHOTKAM GEN 4

Compared to the gear rifle shooters drag to the range, shotgunners participating in the clay target sports travel extremely light. All that money they save on less gear should allow them to spring for ShotKam's latest version of their excellent gun camera. Now in its fourth generation, the ShotKam attaches to the barrel of a shotgun and records the action in front of the muzzle. This latest version is capable of 4K video at 60 frames per second, as well as several slow-motion rates of 120 frames per second. It has a 15-hour battery life, a 128 GB internal memory and an operating range of -10 degrees to +40 degrees Celsius. It can zoom from 2 – 8X, but since it is a digital zoom significant resolution is lost at the upper end.

Overall, the build quality of this camera is better than any other gun camera I've tried, and it's also simpler to use. Of course, there's a smartphone app that it pairs with, but connecting and operating it through the app is also refreshingly simple and foolproof. Even recording video is easy, as once the camera is activated in the correct mode, it pretty much runs itself by

sensing the shot and saving the video it recorded for a set period of time before the shot and also after. Then it resets itself automatically, ready for the next shot. Even I can run this thing!

With a programmable aiming point, the videos it captures make for excellent training, showing in slow motion the gun's tracking of a clay target, the lead used, any flinching which oc-

curred and either the hit or the miss. Searching on YouTube for sample videos to see what the camera is capable of doing is highly recommended. Also check the ShotKam website (<https://ca.shotkam.com>) for more details. Note this is a Canadian site and you can purchase in Canadian dollars; \$899 for the Gen 4, with the Gen 3 still available at \$699.



#### MDT DOUBLE-PULL CKYE-POD GEN 2

Rifle shooters have a feast of bipod options today, and that's a good thing because just like rifles, different bipods are built for different purposes. I've been working with a handful of bipods

for almost a year now and have concluded that for range and competition use, MDT's double-pull CKYE-POD is a top choice. This is a beast of a bipod, which will be too heavy for most hunting use, but it shines for range use. It's adjustable in every aspect I can think would ever be necessary for a bipod, with a build quality that is best described as a machinist's work of art.

There are many versions of this bipod available, including two fixed leg lengths, the double-pull I've been using and a triple pull. It's even available in left- and right-hand versions. Mounting a bipod to a rifle can be a challenge so MDT offers this one with four different mounting options, including for a Picatinny rail, ARCA rail and a sling swivel stud. There's a built-in barricade stop, with separate adjustments for the pan and cant features. Price varies depending on model, with the one pictured here coming in at \$850 CAD. And since MDT is a Canadian company, shipping is quick and easy.

**FALCO HOLSTER RIG** Handgunners have it tough these days, as the market is frozen for the guns themselves. However, we can still buy and use parts and accessories for our guns. Holsters are always necessary, even for casual shooting sessions at the range, and as technology improves them it may be time to upgrade yours. I've been working all spring with an upgrade for my Glock 22. It's a nylon and Kydex rig that has performed exceptionally well. It's made by Falco in Slovakia, and while Slovakia may not be the first place you think of when holsters are needed, it's a great place to get old-world craftsmanship at a reasonable price.

The rig I've been using has their level II holster (#C911), double-magazine open-top pouch with retention screw (#F803) and their tactical inner/outer belt combination with a steel cobra-type buckle (#K715). The workmanship on the two belts is superb and it has just the right balance of stiffness and flexibility. It even comes with four double-snap keepers in case you don't trust the hook-and-loop system which keeps the two belts together. The magazine pouch is simple, with good adjustability for tension. The fit



of the holster to the gun is perfect and there's a little bit of tension adjustment using a pair of screws. However, this model, being a level II, has a thumb release which, when punched, flips the retention strap forward, freeing the gun. It's all very fast and intuitive.

There's quality here and I'm guessing this rig will last through many years of hard use, and even outlast me. Falco offers a blizzard of options on their website ([www.falcoholsters.com](http://www.falcoholsters.com)), including leather products. Pricing is in US dollars, with the rig pictured here coming in at about \$300 US.



#### 5.11 COMPETITION SHOOTING GLOVES

We all know the importance of eye and ear protection when shooting, but sometimes it's nice to have a little hand protection as well. For those days, 5.11 offers their competition shooting glove. I think it's a great idea; after all, if the people on those golf courses can have golf gloves, us shooters can certainly have shooting gloves. So far, I've used mine on those chilly mornings when it's just cold enough to limit the dexterity in my fingers. However, I can see them being useful when guns get hot enough to be uncomfortable, as well as protection from ravenous Canadian mosquitoes. With touchscreen compatibility and some knuckle protection, it's obvious a lot of thought went into the design. The back of the hand features a four-way stretch and breathable fabric and there's even a wipe panel for sweat towards the back of the thumb. They are available in three colours and a good range of sizes. They fit snug, so if you're between sizes I recommend going up to the larger one. Price is about \$30 CAD. 🍀

# MORE THAN DISTANCE

Leupold's RX-1400i TBR/W rangefinder

BY JEFF SMITH



Leupold's RX-1400i TBR/W Rangefinder entered the marketplace a couple of years ago, introducing consumers to an affordable, lightweight, waterproof, high-quality rangefinder packed with cool features which will appeal to shooters and hunters. Additionally, there are some non-hunting uses for this tool around a residence or campsite to determine true horizontal and vertical distances. Handy information for someone dropping an old tree in the front yard, for example.

This rangefinder is powered by what Leupold calls their Digitally eNhanced Accuracy or DNA engine. Rifle hunters can choose the TBR/W mode, while archers would select BOW mode. BOW works with TBR to provide the equivalent horizontal range for level shooting of arrows. LOS or Line Of Sight offers the straight line to a target without

calculating wind or angle. Once in the chosen mode, the operator selects various options to refine ranging.

TBR/W stands for True Ballistic Range with Wind. This allows for a 10-mile-per-hour wind at 90 degrees to the muzzle of the firearm. All settings are available by simply scrolling through them using the MODE button. Choices include BAS, HOLD, MOA or MIL as per the operator's preference. As well, one can choose between yards or metres for ranging results. Reticles available are circle, circle-plex and plex, and each is programmable during set up. It displays each setting and ranged reading in a bright red TOLED display, the intensity of which can be controlled.

An interesting and useful feature is the ability to chose from 25 cartridge performance groups for ballistic data. Each group represents a series of bullet trajectories, with the groups

located in the owner's manual. Once activated, the unit provides a display of the correct distance, as well as the required hold over to the target. This display automatically takes into consideration shot angle, if required. Most common centrefire loads are represented. Additionally, there is a chart for determining which group represents an owner's handloads.

Viewing is via a 5x21mm monocular. This monocular is easily focused by simply rotating the rubberized viewing ring. Additionally, the monocular can be used as a 5X monocular for a quick look without activating the unit. If ranging the item is then required, pressing the power button twice will quickly provide the distance. Whether the unit is activated or not, the resulting view is crystal clear. Accuracy is plus or minus 0.5 yards or metres to 125 yd/m. Out to 1,400 yards, the unit is accurate to plus/minus two yd/m depending on size and reflectivity of the target. Of course, atmospheric conditions can impact these readings by interfering with the laser beam.

I found the unit to be accurate within the published norms by ranging GPS confirmed distances out to 850 yards. I also found it comfortable to hold and intuitive to operate. There are two buttons on the unit, the power button is located on the top and the mode button is on the left side. There is no requirement to turn off the unit as it auto shuts off after seven seconds. Additionally, there is no need to clear previous readings before taking the next one. For the street price of around \$330 CAD, this rangefinder has a lot to offer. 🏹



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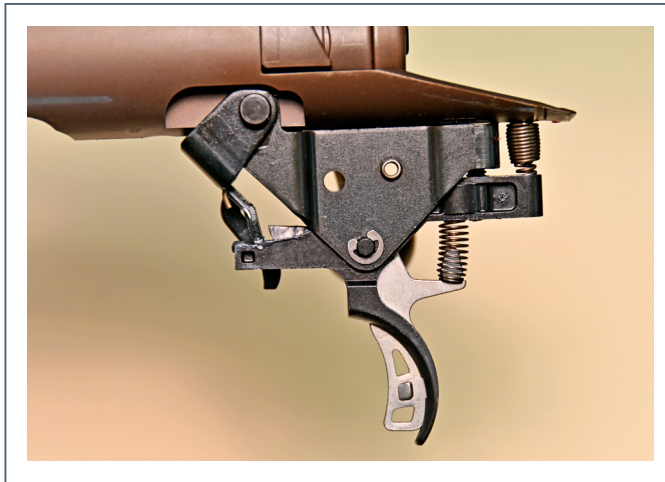
# NFA

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# ACCUTRIGGER ANNIVERSARY

Twenty years of great trigger pulls

BY JEFF HELSDON



Twenty years ago, the shooting world was turned upside down when the formerly challenging task of adjusting the pull weight on a trigger became amazingly simple. That's when Savage Arms launched its AccuTrigger, starting a turnaround in trigger design that resonated throughout the firearms industry.

In 2002, Savage Arms CEO and owner Ron Coburn identified that triggers were one of the shortfalls in the design of the company's rifles, and those of other companies as well. To ensure safety, triggers often required a stiff pull weight. He wanted to change this and tasked engineers Scott Warburton and Bob Gancarz with finding a solution.

They were given these parameters for the design of a new trigger system:

- Trigger pull between one-and-a-half and six pounds
- Infinitely adjustable within that range
- Capable of being adjusted by the owner
- Completely safe, with no danger of accidental discharge even at the

lowest setting

- Crisp release with no creep

At the time, custom triggers or gunsmiths could easily address the issues of trigger pull weight and the crispness of the release. Making the trigger easily adjustable by the owner was a more daunting challenge and safety an even larger obstacle. The stumbling block with safety is the lighter a trigger's pull weight, the easier it is for an unintentional discharge to occur. The sear is the part which prevents the internal hammer or striker from hitting the firing pin. Spring pressure holds the sear next to the trigger, until the latter is pulled. In older designs, lessening the trigger pull weight was done by polishing the sear/trigger and reducing the engagement between the two for a crisper release, requiring less force.

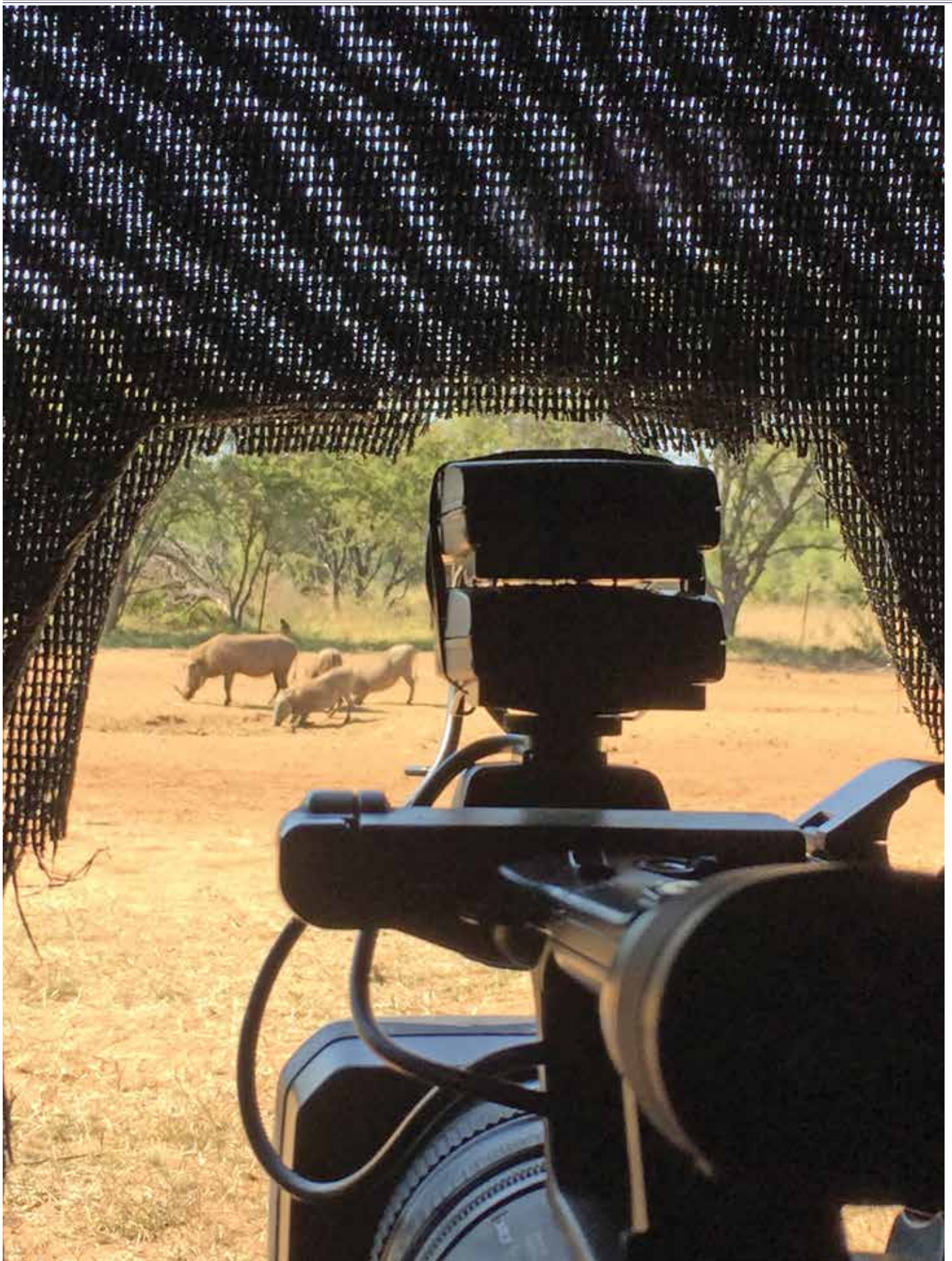
The solution to allow lighter pulls safely was AccuRelease, the company's name for the safety blade in the trigger. It must be moved fully to the rear before the trigger can be released. AccuRelease is a lever that blocks the path of the sear, differing

from many competitors who have a safety blade which only blocks the trigger shoe, but not the sear inside the mechanism.

Savage pulled out all the stops when testing the AccuTrigger, going far beyond traditional testing to ensure safety in any situation. A major concern is a sudden impact that can dislodge the connection between the sear and the trigger. In one test, a gun with an AccuTrigger was dropped from a height of 20 feet onto cement to ensure the sear wouldn't move – and it didn't.

A key provided with AccuTrigger-equipped guns allows adjustment of the pull weight from one-and-a-half to six pounds. Some guns require removal of the stock, while the adjustment on others can be done without stock removal.

Since the development of the AccuTrigger, adjustable triggers have become much more of a standard feature on most bolt-action guns. If you haven't shot a gun with an AccuTrigger, give it a try. Your groups will thank you. 🍀



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# TV IS EASY

If you dream of having your own TV show, read this

**BY TIMOTHY FOWLER**

**PHOTOS BY T.J. SCHWANKY**

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**W**e should make a TV hunting show! Wouldn't it be great to get paid to hunt? And think of all that free gear?" I've heard this said over the years and may have heard myself uttering these very words. But after interviewing both T.J. Schwanky of Outdoor Quest TV and Helgie Eymundson of Sportsman Channel Canada, I have a completely changed perspective on what it takes to make a TV show. Making a TV show is serious work and the result of a significant investment in both time and money.

Eymundson said, "Hunting shows are popular because they are live-action sports, with the audience not knowing what the outcome will be. A true hunting show won't shy away from the fact you embrace killing and you understand what it means to take an animal's life. When you can present that in a show, people will really relate to you and love your show."

Eymundson currently heads up programming, sales and broadcast operations with Sportsman Channel Canada. Eymundson grew up in the woods where he was more likely to encounter a bear than a neighbour. He was carrying his own firearm by the time he was 12 years old and knew his way around a trapline. He even tagged

a world-record whitetail deer in 2007. After graduating from university and working in the agricultural industry, Eymundson was out hunting and ran into a guy who had a television show. The two of them started chatting about making a TV show and he suggested Eymundson give TV a try.

#### **CONFIDENCE & A GOOD IDEA**

Eymundson said, "I'm extremely passionate about the outdoors and hunting, and figured if I don't give this a try, I'll regret it the rest of my life. What followed was the most humbling six months of my life. First and foremost, I had to learn how to sell myself constantly, every day, and often I had to deal with rejection."

But over time, he sorted out what was required to produce a show people wanted to watch. Now Eymundson is one of the folks you need to convince if you want to get access to Sportsman Channel Canada. Once you've decided on the show's concept, whether it be hunting, shooting, fishing or ATVing, you need to impress someone like Eymundson. There are only so many ways to hunt whitetail deer or moose or go fishing. It's you and your team's credibility, confidence and ability that are important. That and your ability to relay your message to the audience. You will

be constantly selling yourself. Successful TV folks can't worry too much about criticism and must continue to hold their heads high, even when they fail. An average hunting or fishing show will take at least five days to film, assuming all goes well. Add another five days if the animals don't co-operate or Mother Nature complicates things.

#### **HAVE MONEY**

Starting a new TV program is a costly endeavour. A start-up show could easily spend \$60,000 the first year and some might spend upwards of \$600,000 on production budgets to make their 10 to 13 episodes per year. Money means funding these episodes out of your own pocket or seeking sponsorships. Sponsorships mean you're out there scratching and clawing and calling and getting financial support for your show. The channels which run hunting programming don't pay for your content, you pay them to carry your show.

Eymundson said, "Often it's not just the concept that wins sponsors over. It's you, it's who you are. They want to partner with you because of your credibility. Once they endorse you and put your face out there and put ▶

their logo on you, you're representing their corporate name, their image and everything they embody."

Considering the 12 to 18 months of lag time to get shows on the air, sponsorships need to be locked up six months prior. It could be a year or more before a sponsor sees the benefits of your labour. Part of what you'll need to film, along with various episodes, is your sponsor's gear, without making it a commercial. Think for a moment about how one might raise \$60,000 in sponsorships to fund a TV endeavour. This is a steep hill to climb. From the outside, the prospect of having access to the latest gear is appeal-

**RIGHT: T.J. Schwanky and Vanessa Harrop have figured out how to make the TV show creation process enjoyable and are entering their 25th year of making great outdoor TV.**



ing, but this gear alone won't pay the rent or buy groceries and fuel.

#### PICK A THEME

Schwanky gave a good piece of advice: pick a mission, pick a theme for your series, and stick with it. Ten people will have 10 different ideas for where to take your show and what to focus on. He recommends picking a direction for your shows and heading there. That K.I.S.S. Principle — keep it simple — has worked well for him and Vanessa Harrop, his partner.

Schwanky has found success when Outdoor Quest focuses on a combination of DIY hunts and outfitted hunts. They enjoy travelling and try

to do two trips overseas every year. Logistically, these present some challenges, but thanks to Harrop, they have the logistics covered — booking the flights and making sure all the permits are in place. They work hard to find trips affordable for the average person and provide a great, and in many cases unique, experience. They maintain regular jobs and work hard. They choose to spend their money on hunting and happen to record it while doing this.

#### DEAL WITH REALITY

Schwanky said, "One of the traps people get into is thinking this is a glamorous lifestyle and you have

**ABOVE: Outdoor Quest's TV crew is two -- these two.**

people doing all this stuff for you. Well, Vanessa and I are the people doing everything. The unique thing about our shows is when she's hunting, I run the camera; when I'm hunting, she runs cameras, so we're a small crew."

Schwanky plans a year or two in advance to find outfitters who fit their niche. Safari Club International Convention is one of his favourite places to go to find trips. Over time, he's gotten to a position where he picks and chooses which trips interest him the most. Ideally, his travels incorpo-



**ABOVE: Then again, if you have to work, this isn't a bad view from the office window.**

rate some cultural aspects. He points out that in addition to enjoying every aspect of hunting, he and Vanessa are foodies and like to drink good wine. So, they search for outfitters who can bring all that to the table too.

Schwanky said, "We want to feature the outfitter and the destination, recognizing they are the expert. We're tourists. We are there as sponges to learn as much as we can and to enjoy

**BELOW: This is an Instagram-worthy glory shot, but it fails to tell the whole gruelling story of what it took to get here, do the hunt, make a TV show and get home again.**

ourselves as much as possible."

Schwanky and Harrop travel with their own firearms, which sometimes creates challenges. Often there are filming permits required for the destination they travel to. All this needs to be arranged at least six months or oftentimes a year out. Add in booking accommodations along the way, keeping in contact with the outfitter and making sure everything's in place.

The best parts of our life make it into



social media posts. Follow Outdoor Quest TV and you'll see highlights from the last year, which include Africa, Spain and Northwest Territories. But we all know those are highlights. Think about what behind-the-scenes actions need to be undertaken to capture those moments. Schwanky has worked hard to find free-range hunting in South Africa and remains focused on finding affordable hunts. Last year, he and Vanessa hunted Spain in April, managing to find some great ibex hunting. He said they're more inexpensive than most people believe.

#### TELL A STORY

Eymundson said, "Several of our best hosts started as writers. Their passion for the outdoors and ability to express themselves, share emotions and tell a story is what everybody needs."

Schwanky has worked in television for three decades, in addition to being a widely published writer. He started in the business with old, heavy gear that required a second truck to pack equipment in. Now he and Harrop use the latest digital gear at a fraction of the weight, making travel much easier. The 24th season of Outdoor Quest is airing right now and Schwanky and Harrop are filming season 25 already.

Schwanky said, "For me, the ultimate TV show is when the camera becomes your viewer. This formula has worked for us. We always treat the camera like it's one of our viewers along on the hunt. And I don't ever want to take people out of those hunts, I want them to always be that person behind the camera, almost like they think they're the one running the camera. My ultimate show is when I never have to talk from the studio. We introduce the show from the studio, then we go into the hunt explaining everything happening at that moment, and the next moment, right through until the end of the hunt. And that is the perfect formula for us."

Schwanky is far enough along in his hunting career that he no longer needs to be killing top-quality trophies. He's more focused on enjoying the experience and more interested in experiencing a good hunt than tagging a record-sized animal.

Well, what do you think? Shall we make a TV show? I've already made my decision. 🍷

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# CANADA'S FIRST MASS- PRODUCED SHOTGUN

The Tobin Arms Manufacturing Company epic – part 2  
*BY G. SCOTT JAMIESON*

**T**obin printed a number of catalogs, most undated. Catalog R and 206 are from Norwich, circa 1906. After that, Woodstock produced all the catalogs.

In July 1910, they indicated their first catalog would be ready soon, no number given. By circa April 1910, catalog H was available, while catalog A was being readied for Feb. 1, 1911. Rod and Gun magazine 1912 issue spoke of catalog 211 being nearly ready. The 211 may be a typo and 311 is what was really meant. The 311 catalog is seen somewhat frequently and contains 32 pages. Another 311 catalog observed and dated 1915 has been noted. The cover looks like the previous 311 with 1915 added. These were 8"X6" in size. Only the 311 has been fully viewed by the author. In short, the catalog numbering was inconsistent at best.

Tobin, circa March 1912, introduced his single-shot Boy Scout .22 calibre rifle. By January 1913, it was touted as the Model 1913 improved and listed at \$4.50 shipped. The barrel was 22 inches and had increased twist rifling that could handle either black or smokeless powder.

By 1914, the price had dropped to \$3.25. Barrels were marked in one line, "TOBIN ARMS MFG., WOODSTOCK, ONT., CANADA." So few have been seen that they must have been poor sellers. Only one noted seems to

have had a serial number, with "1060" stamped under the forearm. It also has a "1" and four "L"s marked on it.

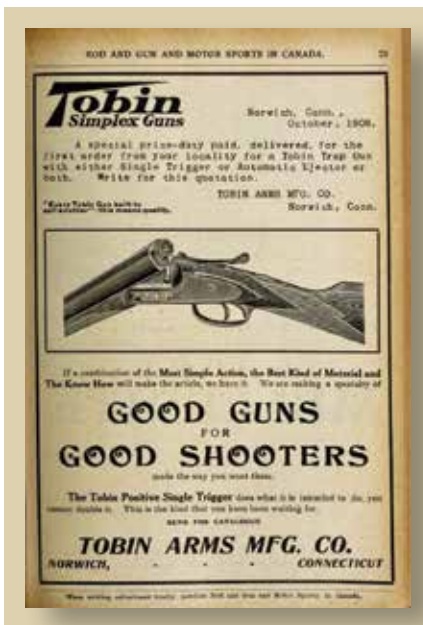
The last noted Tobin Arms advertisement appeared in September of 1915. After 1916, the company was no longer listed in the Woodstock city directories. Its charter was surrendered to the provincial secretary and registrar on Dec. 19, 1921. By November 1915, the Thompson Tool Company occupied some portion of the factory, and by September 1917 the Canadian Linderman Company had rented the building to fulfill a \$14 million munitions contract for the US government.<sup>9</sup> The Tobin building was then leased or sold to the Eureka Planter Company by H.A. Little and E.W. Nesbitt.

Frank Tobin remained in Woodstock for the rest of his life, calling himself a gentleman farmer, passing away Oct. 10, 1939.

## THE GLADSTONE BLAKE CRANDALL YEARS 1922 TO 1953

By August 1922, Crandall had arranged with Tobin Arms to manufacture and sell their shotguns.<sup>10</sup> By April 1923, he was advertising four grades of Tobins at \$40, \$45, \$60 and \$100, with the last two grades engraved. Crandall ran about 10 advertisements in Volume XIV of Rod and Gun in Canada.

The exact arrangement of the Tobin





deal is not known. Did he buy out all the remaining stock outright or did he buy up stock as business dictated? A clue may be found in the following letter, dated Feb. 18, 1933, from H.A. Little to H.T. Norry: "Could you please let G. Crandall have six of the walnut gun stocks which used to be stored under the vault in your office and collect \$2.40 from him therefore."<sup>11</sup>

Crandall was one of Canada's finest gunsmiths, holding numerous patents in the field of firearms, and was well known in the US for his quality work.<sup>12</sup>

Alvin Hunter felt Crandall made about 550 Tobin Simplex shotguns, ranging from serial number 18976 to 19526. Some are just stamped on the sideplates "Tobin Arms" and others, marked in three lines, "G.B. Crandall/Maker/Woodstock, Ont."

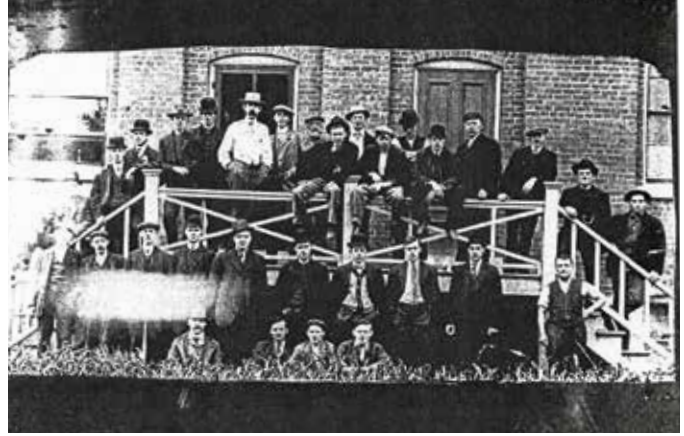
Sometime during Crandall production, he dispensed with the floating V-shaped mainspring, substituting a coil mainspring. All Crandall shotguns pictured in his catalogs do not have the barrel extension/lug protruding through the receiver floorplate, making it easier to distinguish a Tobin factory gun from Crandall's work. It would be impossible to tell at this late date how many shotguns were truly made in Norwich and Woodstock, given that after the failure a number of people did or could have been assembling guns from leftover parts. For instance, serial number 19526 (on barrel lug) while the watertable is serial numbered 18846. How many more miss-matched serial guns exist?

By 1930, Crandall was offering Tobins in four grades: C, D, E and the E Special, having discontinued the cheaper A and B grades.

Crandall and his son were still advertising their work in 1950, but with no mention of Tobin's. As successor to Tobin Arms, Crandall kept busy patenting and making Crandall-branded precision lever loading tools, powder measures, bullet making presses and patented vented chokes.

Concurrently with his custom work, Crandall retailed NO-KO-ROD gun oil, relined many .22 rifles, retailed Winchester, Stevens, Remington and Cooley rifles, Ithaca, Lefever, L.C. Smith and Parker shotguns. In addition, he sold Watson, Lyman and Marble open sights, as well as telescopic sights. If all this was not enough, he specialized in some .22 calibre wildcat cartridges, such as the 22-3000 R-2 Lovell, the Standard Kilbourn K-Hor-

**Tobin Woodstock employees circa 1910. Tobin is the man in the back row wearing white. G.B. Crandall is fourth from the left in the back row.**



net and the 22-303 Varmint-R Crandall cartridge based on the 303 British case. In short, he retailed a great deal of gun-related material, filling in with much custom work. Also, it was not unknown for Crandall to put his name on shotguns of makes other than Tobin if his custom work warranted it. Lefever shotgun serial number 35449 may have come from the Crandall estate and bears the stamp "G.B. CRANDALL" on the barrel rib.

Tobin Arms, during its lifetime, made shotguns under other brand names. The following have been noted and viewed: Tournament, Abercrombie and Fitch, Blue Diamond brand for Norvell-Shapleigh, W.E. Ekins and G.B. Richards. Other possible brand names used but not viewed by the author are Sealer Special, C.G. Worthington, Kitchener or Kitchener Special, H.C. Reed Co., W & W Company Premier, Black Diamond for Janney, Semple, Hill & Company marked Tobin Arms Mfg. Co. and Highest Quality possibly for Eaton's.

Beyond Crandall's work assembling/finishing Tobins, the finality of the story takes on an apocryphal thread line dependent upon which story one believes. One tale has Crandall, upon his retirement, hauling loads of Tobin parts to the local dump. Conversely, after his death, his family dumped the remaining parts down a well. Another has E.V. Leach, of Stratford, Ont., buying up the majority of the remaining Tobin parts after Crandall's death, including barrels, springs, screws, machined stocks and forearms. A few years later, his shop endured a fire that destroyed the parts he had.<sup>13</sup>

Why did the company fail? In the author's opinion, it was stiff competition and the onset of the Great

War and competition from better known makers with economy of scale manufacturing facilities. The rise in popularity of both pump and semi-automatic repeating shotguns meant the market was shrinking for the double-barreled shotgun market. The Great War promised profitable war work and Tobin would not be the only Canadian company subsumed by war work, never to return to their pre-war roots. The Arnold Thompson Tool Company occupied part or all of the Tobin works by 1915 to 1916, with the Canadian Linderman Company, mentioned earlier, taking on war work for the American government.

So far as is known, the building is still standing and in use as of 2023. 🏠

## REFERENCES

- <sup>9</sup> Canadian Machinery and Manufacturing News. September 27, 1917, page 64.
- <sup>10</sup> Rod and Gun in Canada. "Tobin Arms Again on Market". August 1922, Volume XXIV, No. 3, page 196.
- <sup>11</sup> Roy Hebbes. Internet source.
- <sup>12</sup> Crandall patent list: He held seven known patents, four US and three Canadian: US 862,717, Sight for Firearms, issued Aug. 6, 1907; CA 117232 Registering Billiard Counter, issued March 16, 1909; CA118223 Pool Ball Rack, issued May 11, 1909; US 1,746,766 Powder Measuring Device issued Feb. 11, 1930; US 2,512,850 Pattern Control Means for Shotguns issued June 27, 1950; CA474700A Pattern Control Means for Shotguns issued June 26, 1951; and US 2,633,771 Powder Measuring Device issued April 7, 1953.
- <sup>13</sup> Alvin Hunter unpublished manuscript Chapter V, page 20.



# Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## The Latest About Bill C-21

A few months back, I wrote a column about Bill C-21. At that time, two controversial amendments (G-4 and G-46) that would have prohibited many common hunting rifles had been introduced and subsequently withdrawn. On May 1, which is coincidentally the third anniversary of the Order in Council prohibiting many legally held firearms, new amendments were announced and the House of Commons passed a resolution to allow the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security (SECU) to make amendments that would expand upon the original scope of the bill and to limit debate in committee. Indeed, the SECU review proceeded swiftly and the bill has been sent back to the House of Commons for approval in third reading.

Hereafter is a discussion of where the bill stands as it enters third reading in the House of Commons. It is expected that the final text of the bill will substantially reflect what is discussed hereafter.

### TWO BILLS BEARING THE SAME NAME

First, a caveat: the current Bill C-21 should not be confused with an earlier bill bearing the same designation. The latter was introduced in parliament before the last federal election and died on the agenda when the election was called. The two bills have a lot in common, but they also have significant differences.

### HARSHER MAXIMUM SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN FIREARMS-RELATED OFFENCES

The maximum sentence for certain criminal offences related to firearms (when prosecuted by indictment) is increased from 10 years to 14 years:

- Possession of prohibited or restricted firearm with ammunition in an unauthorized location (s. 95 CC)
- Possession of weapon obtained by commission of an offence (s. 96 CC)



- Weapons trafficking (s. 99 CC)
- Possession for the purpose of weapons trafficking (s. 100 CC)
- Importing or exporting knowing it is unauthorized (s. 103 CC)

Whether those amendments will have any effect on so-called gun crime remains to be seen.

### EMERGENCY PROHIBITION ORDERS

Bill C-21 allows any person to make an ex-parte application (i.e., without prior notification to the person concerned) to a provincial court judge to obtain a temporary firearms prohibition order, valid for 30 days. In essence, this change allows a person with safety concerns to bypass the police and go straight to a court of law. Upon service of the order by a police officer, firearms will be seized, pending the outcome of a hearing for a longer-term prohibition order.

There is huge potential for malicious use of these provisions, especially in the context of domestic and other disputes, and the mere fact a court order may be made on an ex-parte basis makes the whole

**Bill C-21 builds on the Liberal's efforts to erase legal handgun ownership.**

**Le projet de loi C-21 est une autre initiative libérale pour éliminer la possession légale d'arm**

process susceptible to abuse. Given the remedies already existing in the Criminal Code to address potentially dangerous situations, it is difficult to believe these new so-called red-flag provisions serve anything but political goals.

### SUSPENSION OF FIREARMS LICENSES

Chief firearms officers will be granted the power to suspend firearms licenses. A suspension can be up to 30 days. While a license is suspended, usage and acquisition of firearms and ammunition is prohibited, under penalty of criminal prosecution. The targeted licensee will not be required to immediately surrender or dispose of their firearms unless the license is subsequently revoked. The decision to suspend a license does not appear to be challengeable under s. 74 of the

Firearms Act. It is unclear whether the suspension can be extended beyond the initial 30 days.

#### **AUTHORIZATIONS TO CARRY HANDGUNS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LIFE**

The authority to issue ATCs for the protection of life is being taken away from provincial CFOs and granted to the commissioner of firearms (the RCMP). This is likely in response to the fact that certain provinces, such as Alberta, who have recently appointed a gun-owner-friendly CFO, might be tempted to issue those ATCs. At last count, there was only one such ATC for the protection of life issued in all of Canada.

CFOs retain jurisdiction to issue ATCs in connection with professional purposes (e.g., trappers, security guards, prospectors).

#### **PREVENTING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE OR WERE SUBJECT TO A PROTECTION ORDER FROM BEING ELIGIBLE TO HOLD A FIREARMS LICENCE**

What is remarkable in these provisions is that they have a retroactive effect, insofar as they will affect individuals who are no longer subject to such an order and were issued a firearms licence despite the CFO's knowledge of the expired order. "Protection orders" include most restraining orders issued by criminal courts and civil courts, including orders issued in family matters prohibiting a person from occupying a family home or residence. Other types of orders may be added by way of regulations. Individuals who have previously been subject to a restraining order may be denied a firearms licence (or have their licence revoked) if a CFO determines they may still pose a threat to public safety.

Further, any person convicted of domestic violence or stalking will see their firearms licence revoked. A CFO is required to revoke a licence within 24 hours of acquiring knowledge that an individual has engaged in domestic violence. The requirement is mere "reasonable grounds to believe."

#### **BAN ON HANDGUN TRANSFERS TO INDIVIDUALS**

I have already written extensively on this aspect of the bill in previous columns. Remarkably, these changes have already been put into effect since the enactment of certain regulatory changes in October 2022. For further

information, I suggest that you read past columns.

#### **FIREARMS ADVERTISING**

No firearms advertising may depict, counsel or promote violence against persons. This prohibition might encompass any advertising promoting self-defence and, potentially, some tactical sports.

#### **BAN ON CERTAIN SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES & SHOTGUNS**

The definition of prohibited firearm in the Criminal Code is amended to include long guns that discharge centrefire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner, designed to function from a detachable magazine with a capacity greater than five cartridges (irrespective of whether such a magazine is indeed available in Canada). The amendment applies only to firearms designed and manufactured after this amendment comes into effect. Thus, grandfathering of existing rifles and shotguns is implied. (Except, of course, for those that are captured by the May 1, 2020, OIC).

The term "semi-automatic" is defined as meaning: "that the firearm is equipped with a mechanism that, following the discharge of a cartridge, automatically operates to complete any part of the reloading cycle necessary to prepare for the discharge of the next cartridge." This definition is highly problematic because of the "any part of the reloading cycle" phrase since it may capture firearms that would not otherwise be viewed as semi-automatic.

#### **EXPANSION OF LICENSING REQUIREMENT**

A firearms licence will be required to purchase certain firearm parts such as magazines, barrels and slides.

#### **ALTERATION OF CARTRIDGE MAGAZINE**

Increasing the capacity of a magazine beyond the legal limit becomes a separate offence.

#### **POSSESSION OF CERTAIN COMPUTER DATA**

Possessing, accessing or distributing computer data that may be conducive to 3D printing or metal-milling a firearm or prohibited device becomes a criminal offence.

#### **IMPORTING OF AMMUNITION & MAGAZINES**

A person (other than a non-resident)

entering Canada with ammunition, a cartridge magazine or firearms parts (barrels, slides) will be required to exhibit a valid firearms licence.

#### **IMMEDIATE SURRENDER OF FIREARMS UPON LICENSE REVOCATION/NON-RENEWAL EVEN IF CHALLENGED**


Individuals who see their licence revoked or not renewed will be required to surrender their firearms to police or dispose of same within 24 hours, even if they opt to challenge a non-renewal/revocation of their firearms licence under s. 74 of the Firearms Act. If the challenge is unsuccessful, as is often the case, this will significantly complexify the disposal of the firearms for value.

#### **WHAT HAS BEEN LEFT OUT OF BILL C-21**

The previous iteration of Bill C-21 purported to grant municipalities the power to prohibit the storage of handguns at dwelling houses and to require central storage thereof. That has been seemingly abandoned, at least for now. The same is true of enlarged powers to regulate the storage of handguns, as contemplated in the previous iteration of the bill.

The Liberals have hinted that legislation will be introduced to require that pinned or riveted magazines be modified in a permanent manner, such that they cannot be restored to their full capacity. However, as of now, it has been omitted from Bill C-21.

In its original form, Bill C-21 would have turned certain low-power air guns that are currently exempt from licensing and registration requirements into prohibited devices for specified purposes. Those changes were withdrawn. Had the provisions not been withdrawn, the sport of airsoft would have been greatly affected.

Finally, Bill C-21 is conspicuously silent regarding the firearms affected by the May 1, 2020, OIC. There is no hint or element of a proposed buyback program. Fortunately, there is also no provision purporting to bonify the position of the government of Canada regarding the pending litigation before the Federal Court of Canada, wherein the legality of the said OIC is being challenged. The latter cases have been heard by the court in April 2023 and are currently under advisement. 



# Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

## Le Projet De Loi C-21: État Des Lieux

Il y a quelques mois, j'ai écrit une chronique sur le projet de loi C-21. À cette époque, deux amendements controversés (G-4 et G-46) qui auraient interdit de nombreuses armes de chasse communes avaient été introduits puis retirés. Le 1er mai 2023 (qui marque par coïncidence le troisième anniversaire du décret interdisant de nombreuses armes à feu détenues légalement), de nouvelles modifications ont été annoncées et la Chambre des communes a adopté une résolution pour permettre au Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale (SECU) d'apporter des modifications qui élargiraient la portée initiale du projet de loi 21 et de limiter le débat en comité. En effet, l'examen de la SECU s'est déroulé rapidement et le projet de loi a été renvoyé à la Chambre des communes pour approbation en troisième lecture.

Voici une discussion sur le statut actuel du projet de loi C-21, alors qu'il entre à l'étape de la troisième lecture à la Chambre des communes. On s'attend à ce que le texte final du projet de loi reflète essentiellement ce qui sera discuté ci-après.

### DEUX PROJETS DE LOI PORTANT LE MÊME NOM

Tout d'abord, une mise en garde: le projet de loi C-21 actuel ne doit pas être confondu avec un projet de loi antérieur portant exactement la même désignation. Ce dernier a été présenté au Parlement avant les dernières élections générales fédérales et est mort à l'ordre du jour lorsque les élections générales ont été déclenchées. Les deux projets de loi ont beaucoup en commun, mais ils ont aussi des différences importantes.

### PEINES MAXIMALES PLUS SÉVÈRES POUR CERTAINES INFRACTIONS LIÉES AUX ARMES À FEU:

La peine maximale pour certaines infractions criminelles liées aux armes à feu (lorsqu'elles sont poursuivies par mise en accusation) passe de 10 ans à 14 ans. Ces infractions sont:

- Possession d'une arme à feu

- prohibée ou à autorisation restreinte avec munitions dans un endroit non autorisé (art. 95 CC)
- Possession d'une arme obtenue par la perpétration d'une infraction (art. 96 CC)
- Trafic d'armes (art. 99 CC)
- Possession en vue d'en faire le trafic (art. 100 CC)
- Importer ou exporter en sachant que cela n'est pas autorisé (art. 103 CC)

Il reste à voir si ces modifications auront un effet sur ce qu'on appelle la criminalité par arme à feu.

### ORDONNANCES D'INTERDICTION D'URGENCE

Le projet de loi C-21 permet à toute personne de présenter une demande ex parte (c.-à-d. sans préavis à la personne concernée) auprès d'un juge d'une cour provinciale afin d'obtenir une ordonnance temporaire d'interdiction de possession d'armes à feu, valide pour 30 jours. Essentiellement, ce changement permet à une personne ayant des préoccupations en matière de sécurité de contourner les forces policières et de s'adresser directement à un tribunal. Dès la signification de l'ordonnance par un agent de police, les armes à feu seront saisies, en attendant l'issue d'une audience pour une ordonnance d'interdiction à plus long terme. Il existe un énorme potentiel d'utilisation malveillante de ces dispositions, en particulier dans le contexte de différends domestiques et autres, et le simple fait qu'une ordonnance du tribunal puisse être rendue ex parte rend l'ensemble du processus susceptible d'abus. Compte tenu des recours qui existent déjà dans le Code criminel pour régler des situations potentiellement dangereuses, il est difficile de croire que ces nouvelles dispositions dites de « drapeau rouge » servent autre chose que des objectifs politiques.

### SUSPENSION DES PERMIS D'ARMES À FEU

Les contrôleurs des armes à feu auront le pouvoir de « suspendre » les permis d'armes à feu. Une suspension

peut aller jusqu'à trente (30) jours. Tant qu'un permis est suspendu, l'utilisation et l'acquisition d'armes à feu, de certaines pièces d'armes à feu et de munitions sont interdites, sous peine de poursuites pénales. Le titulaire de permis ciblé ne sera pas tenu de remettre ou d'aliéner immédiatement ses armes à feu, à moins que le permis ne soit révoqué par la suite.

La décision de suspendre un permis ne semble pas contestable en vertu de l'article 74 de la Loi sur les armes à feu. Il n'est pas clair si la suspension peut être prolongée au-delà des trente (30) jours initiaux.

### AUTORISATIONS DE PORT D'ARMES DE POING POUR LA PROTECTION DE LA VIE

Le pouvoir de délivrer des autorisations de port d'arme (APA) pour la protection de la vie est retiré aux contrôleurs des armes à feu provinciaux et accordé au commissaire aux armes à feu (la GRC). Cette mesure est vraisemblablement en réponse au fait que certaines provinces, comme l'Alberta, qui ont récemment nommé un CAF favorable aux propriétaires d'armes à feu, pourraient être tentées de délivrer ces APA. Au dernier décompte, il n'y avait qu'un seul CTA de ce type pour la protection de la vie délivré dans tout le Canada. Les contrôleurs des armes à feu conservent le pouvoir de délivrer des APA à des fins professionnelles (p. ex. trappeurs, gardiens de sécurité, prospecteurs)

### EMPÊCHER LES PERSONNES QUI FONT OU ONT FAIT L'OBJET D'UNE ORDONNANCE DE PROTECTION D'ÊTRE ADMISSIBLES À DÉTENER UN PERMIS D'ARMES À FEU

Ce qui est remarquable dans ces dispositions, c'est qu'elles ont un effet rétroactif, dans la mesure où elles toucheront des personnes qui ne sont plus assujetties à une telle ordonnance et qui ont obtenu un permis d'armes à feu malgré le fait que le contrôleur des armes

à feu ait pu avoir connaissance de l'ordonnance expirée. Les « ordonnances de protection » comprennent la plupart des engagements de garder la paix souscrits et les ordonnances rendus par les tribunaux pénaux et les tribunaux civils, y compris les ordonnances rendues en matière familiale interdisant à une personne d'occuper un domicile familial ou une résidence. D'autres types d'ordonnances peuvent être ajoutés par voie de règlement. Les personnes qui ont déjà fait l'objet d'une telle ordonnance par le passé peuvent se voir refuser un permis d'armes à feu (ou voir leur permis révoqué) si un CAF détermine qu'elles peuvent toujours constituer une menace pour la sécurité publique.

De plus, toute personne reconnue coupable de violence familiale ou de harcèlement criminel verra son permis d'armes à feu révoqué.

Enfin, un contrôleur des armes à feu est tenu de révoquer un permis dans les 24 heures suivant l'acquisition de la connaissance qu'une personne s'est livrée à de la violence familiale. Une telle révocation peut être fondée sur de simples « motifs raisonnables de croire ».

#### **INTERDICTION DES TRANSFERTS D'ARMES DE POING À DES PARTICULIERS**

J'ai déjà beaucoup écrit sur cet aspect du projet de loi dans des chroniques précédentes. Fait remarquable, ces changements ont déjà été mis en œuvre, depuis l'adoption de certaines modifications réglementaires en octobre 2022. Pour plus d'informations, je vous suggère de lire les chroniques précédentes.

#### **PUBLICITÉ SUR LES ARMES À FEU**

Aucune publicité pour des armes à feu ne peut représenter, conseiller ou fomenter la violence contre les personnes. Cette interdiction pourrait englober toute publicité faisant la promotion de l'autodéfense et, potentiellement, de certains sports tactiques.

#### **INTERDICTION DE CERTAINES CARABINES ET FUSILS DE CHASSE SEMI-AUTOMATIQUES**

La définition d'arme à feu prohibée dans le Code criminel est modifiée pour inclure les armes d'épaule qui déchargent des munitions à

percussion centrale de manière semi-automatique, conçues pour fonctionner à partir d'un chargeur amovible d'une capacité supérieure à 5 cartouches (qu'un tel chargeur soit ou non disponible au Canada). La modification ne s'applique qu'aux armes à feu conçues et fabriquées après l'entrée en vigueur de cette modification. Ainsi, des droits acquis des carabines et des fusils de chasse existants sont implicites. (Sauf, bien sûr, pour ceux qui sont visés par le décret du 1er mai 2020).

Le terme « semi-automatique » est défini comme signifiant : « que l'arme à feu est équipée d'un mécanisme qui, après la décharge d'une cartouche, fonctionne automatiquement pour compléter toute partie du cycle de rechargement nécessaire pour préparer le déchargement de la cartouche suivante ». Cette définition est très problématique, en raison de l'utilisation des mots « toute partie du cycle de rechargement », car cela peut viser des armes à feu qui ne seraient pas autrement considérées comme semi-automatiques.

#### **ÉLARGISSEMENT DE L'EXIGENCE DE DÉTENTION D'UN PERMIS:**

Un permis d'armes à feu sera requis pour acheter certaines pièces d'armes à feu telles que des chargeurs, des canons et des glissières.

#### **MODIFICATION DU CHARGEUR DE CARTOUCHES**

L'augmentation de la capacité d'un chargeur au-delà de la limite légale devient une infraction distincte.

#### **POSSESSION DE CERTAINES DONNÉES INFORMATIQUES**

La possession, l'accès ou la distribution de données informatiques pouvant favoriser l'impression 3D ou le machinage d'une arme à feu ou d'un dispositif prohibé devient une infraction criminelle.

#### **IMPORTATION DE MUNITIONS ET DE CHARGEURS**

Une personne (autre qu'un non-résident) entrant au Canada avec des munitions, un chargeur de cartouches ou des pièces d'armes à feu (canons, glissières) devra présenter un permis d'armes à feu valide.

#### **REMISE IMMÉDIATE DES ARMES À FEU EN CAS DE RÉVOCATION OU DE NON-RENOUVELLEMENT**

#### **DU PERMIS, MÊME EN CAS DE CONTESTATION**


Les personnes dont le permis est révoqué ou non renouvelé devront remettre leurs armes à feu à la police ou en disposer dans les 24 heures, même si elles choisissent de contester le non-renouvellement ou la révocation de leur permis d'armes à feu en vertu de l'article 74 de la Loi sur les armes à feu. Si la contestation échoue, comme c'est souvent le cas, cela compliquera considérablement la vente subséquente des armes à feu.

#### **CE QUI A ÉTÉ OMIS DANS LE PROJET DE LOI C-21:**

La version précédente du projet de loi C-21 visait à accorder aux municipalités le pouvoir d'interdire l'entreposage des armes de poing dans les maisons d'habitation et d'exiger leur entreposage central. Cela semble avoir été abandonné, du moins pour l'instant. Il en va de même pour les pouvoirs élargis de réglementer l'entreposage des armes de poing, comme envisagé dans la version précédente du projet de loi.

Les libéraux ont laissé entendre qu'un projet de loi sera déposé pour exiger que les chargeurs épinglés ou rivetés soient modifiés de façon permanente, de sorte qu'ils ne puissent pas être restaurés à leur pleine capacité. Toutefois, pour l'instant, cela a été omis du projet de loi C-21.

Dans sa forme originale, le projet de loi C-21 aurait transformé les armes à air comprimé de faible puissance qui sont actuellement exemptées des exigences en matière de permis et d'enregistrement en dispositifs prohibés à des fins précises. Ces modifications ont été retirées. Si les dispositions n'avaient pas été retirées, le sport de l'Airsoft aurait été grandement affecté.

Enfin, le projet de loi C-21 est remarquablement silencieux en ce qui concerne les armes à feu touchées par le décret du 1er mai 2020. Il n'y a aucune allusion ou élément d'un programme de « rachat » proposé. Heureusement, il n'y a pas non plus de disposition visant à bonifier la position du gouvernement du Canada concernant le litige en cours devant la Cour fédérale du Canada, dans lequel la légalité dudit décret est contestée. Ces dernières affaires ont été entendues par la Cour en avril 2023 et sont actuellement en délibéré. 



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## ATRS Ultra-Lite Rings



**ATRS 30mm  
X-High Ultra-  
Lite Rings**

**H**ow often do you swap scopes between rifles? Do you ever get annoyed, struggling with trying to torque all the fasteners on the rings while setting up a rifle scope, always fighting to keep your reticle level while you switch back and forth from fastener to fastener?

I think one of the best solutions a Canadian manufacturer has come up with in a precision set of rings is from Alberta Tactical Rifle Supply (ATRS). These rings keep it simple by having just one screw on each side. They are now my favourite set of rings I own for ease of installation and swap-ability. They have a wonderful fit and finish and are made from 7075 aluminum and CNC machined to obviously tight tolerances, negating the need to use lapping to get a precise fit -- it's actually not recommended by ATRS. Additionally, the rings are hard anodized and feature 4140 chromoly steel hardware that is hardened via a nitriding process, creating a solid and robust mounting solution.

Currently the rings are offered for one-inch, 30-millimetre and 34-millimetre scope tubes in a variety of heights, from 0.790 inches for the one-inch tube, all the way up to a height of one-and-a-half inches for the 30-millimetre and 34-millimetre tube. This

range provides a solution for most shooters to mount a scope on their firearm of choice. Currently, the rings are only available to be mounted on Picatinny rails, so no dovetail setups.


The single fastener method is wonderful as it means less fasteners that can rotate the scope in either direction during install. It also means larger and heavier fasteners, as it gives more real estate on the sides of the rings to work with.

Something that led to my purchase of these rings from ATRS was in the "About" section on their website ([www.albertatacticalrifle.com](http://www.albertatacticalrifle.com)):

"Unlike all of the big box retail stores, everyone who works at ATRS is a long-range shooter and understands not only what makes the very

best in extreme precision rifles, but also the handloading of the ammunition and the discipline required to make the real long-range shots.

"The people who work here are probably the most anal people you are likely to encounter, as good enough just simply is NOT good enough around here. It has to be the best!"

Personally, when contacting a shop, being able to get an answer from someone who not only understands the product but is also an avid and knowledgeable user of it makes me a happy camper. ATRS is located in Calgary, Alta., making these rings a great Canadian-made product that any shooter should be happy to have in their gun safe. 



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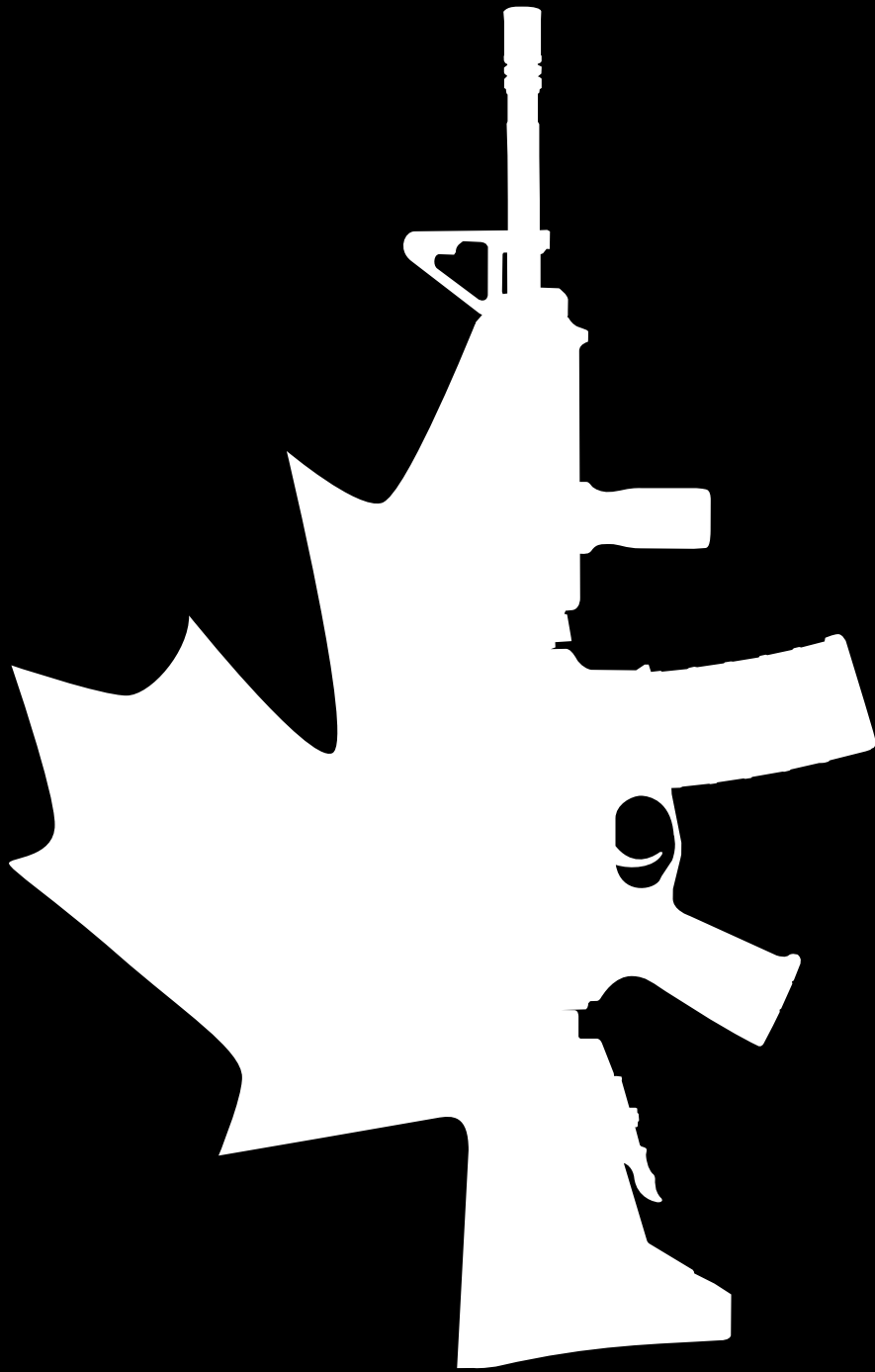
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