

March 2011

Ontario

When you read this article, the spring target season will be just about to start in Ontario. If you win an event (in Ontario), you may be eligible for a Delegate pin, depending upon the number of shooters in the event. Please resolve any ties. For eligibility for all-star teams, you must shoot sufficient Ontario targets in each discipline, and it is your combined average that determines your eligibility.

For in-province and out-of-province shooters, you just *have* to get your hands on the 2011 provincial program when it becomes available. The OPTA board has done some very innovative things, some of which I have seen nowhere else throughout my travels. I won't steal the board's thunder, but when the programs are ready, I will be pleased to share their contents with you and encourage attendance by resident and non-resident shooters.

I wrote this article in late January, and like many of you, I was looking forward to a winter break shoot, which for me is often the Dixie Grand. My winter break came a little earlier than anticipated and was not pleasant. In my typical (so says my wife) haste in doing 10 things at once, I unsuccessfully negotiated the descent of my office stairs. I thought I had reached the landing, but was springboarding in mid air. When my foot did hit the landing, it was over-extended, and the sudden pressure snapped the ligament right off the top of the patella (kneecap). The surgery was painful, and there will be some restrictions pending recovery, but at least I hope to make a full recovery (and I hope to do some shooting too, possibly from a stool or chair; we'll see).

I don't recommend breaking something to have genuine empathy for people with disabilities, but have you ever tried crutches or a wheelchair? Try getting in and out of vehicles, up and down steps, carrying something or using the washroom facilities. Having a facility that is accessible for people with disabilities is greatly appreciated by people just struggling to do the basic things that others take for granted.

Good shooting to everyone.

Paul Shaw
ATA Delegate