



## **THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE**

**March 2011**

Great to have you back in THE CLUBHOUSE! We've pushed the clocks forward to daylight saving's time and counting down the minutes to hotter and drier shooting weather. In the meantime, some members of our OPTA tribe were fortunate enough to shoot without their full winter gear in Arizona, so let's the rest of us get warmed up with our report from there!

### **THE 2011 SPRING SATELLITE GRAND AMERICAN**

We've received word from our 'roving reporter' Joe Woods that he, Bob & Janice Vancso, as well as Frank Kapasi were the only Ontarians to make it to the host club for this tournament, the Tucson Trap & Skeet club - a first class shooting complex.

We learned that the shoot was well attended by a very strong field of competitors that was surpassed only by stronger winds that gusted periodically during the tournament. Word has it that our OPTA members enjoyed the warm Arizona hospitality, despite the snow that fell one day! And we are pleased to report that Bob had a wonderful 'first' during this tournament. While crushing 94 targets in the final Handicap event, he shot his first 50 straight ever in handicap. We're happy for you, Bob!!

### **MEMBER UPDATES**

We are thrilled to announce the following milestones of our Members and congratulate each of them on their 'rising' accomplishments!

**Bert Blackburn** – 25,000 singles targets  
(as of June 2010);

**Jim Pollock** – 25,000 singles targets  
(as of January 2011)

**Keith Saunders** – 75,000 singles targets  
(as of January 2011)

**Bill Wylie** – 100, 000 singles targets  
(as of January 2011)

And finally, we are pleased to report that we avoided serious injury after spelling **Joe Di Francesco's** name incorrectly in last month's THE CLUBHOUSE. Thankfully, he accepted our apology after we promised that it won't ever happen again....*at least not in this edition!*

### **UPDATES FROM THE OPTA PRESIDENT, NEVILLE HENDERSON**

"Hello shooters! I'm sure you're all as impatient as I am for the nice weather to arrive and the official start of the new Trapshooting season. I'll be at the Good Friday shoot in a few weeks and hope to see many of you there. Although it may seem like a long time to the 2011 Ontario Provincial Championships, the Board has been preparing for them all winter. We are working our way through a list of items we identified in our postmortem of the 2010 Championships. There is plenty of room for improvement!

There were a number of complaints about consistency in interpreting the ATA rules. A simplified list of key rules has been prepared for the scorers and a program set up for training them before the competition. This list may prove to be a benefit for all clubs and the Board is pleased to share it on request. It represents the official OPTA interpretation of the key ATA rules and has the blessing of our ATA delegate. Consistency in application of rules throughout the province will be beneficial to all members.

The Awards for the Provincial Championships have been significantly restructured. The Board believes we now have an excellent trophy package and we are planning to make further improvements next year. The objective of the changes are far reaching, including the new Annual awards which are explained in greater detail in this edition of THE CLUBHOUSE, with more information coming up in the next issue."



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"Our fresh focus with the Awards includes the recognition of OPTA clubs that have devoted extra effort to support shooting events and to provide inducement for greater participation in the sport by both new and experienced shooters.

Work has also started on the software to be used for the Ontario Championships. The prior software was antiquated so we have opted to go with a new software package that has received a lot of positive support from the clubs using it. The Hamilton Gun Club already has this package so we are working with them to ensure it suits our needs for the Championships. We plan to test the software in several shoots prior to the Ontario Championships. We are also working closely with the Hamilton Gun Club to improve the administration of the competition so that it runs more smoothly. We haven't worked through all the details, but several Board members are working on this project and we have a number of ideas to investigate and test.

In order to speed up the shoot, we are working with The Hamilton Gun Club to set up squad hustlers to keep the shoot moving efficiently. This has been a perennial problem and must be solved if we are going to have a chance of getting the shoot and the various shoot-offs finished in a reasonable time. We will have to be more forceful than we have in the past to keep squads moving and we believe the majority of members will perceive this to be a very positive change. In this regard, we are looking for hustlers, so if you are willing to donate the time, please let us know, either by e-mail or by talking to a Board member. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

There has been criticism of the facilities at the Provincials and we are looking for ways to remedy those issues. The facilities should be well maintained and clean for those using them. Though this is not a direct OPTA Board responsibility, it does affect our members and we will certainly do our best to ensure the facilities meet expectations.

As you can see, there is a lot to be done and the Board has a number of other initiatives it would like to undertake to further the sport of trapshooting here in Ontario. Your Board is working enthusiastically to accomplish these objectives so I'm confident you will see significant improvements in 2011, extending into 2012.

In order to move into the future and create a positive atmosphere for change, it has been necessary to make an important executive restructuring. I am very pleased to announce that the Board voted for Pam Muma to replace Gord Kerr as Secretary Treasurer, effective March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Gord may continue as a Board member so hopefully we can benefit from his experience going forward. I'm sure the membership appreciates his many years of service.

All future correspondence regarding the OPTA, as well as Shoot Reports, should be directed to Pam. Her email address is [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com). Her postal address is: 239 Erie St., St Thomas, ON N5R 2N8. If you wish to reach Pam by phone, please call: 519-633-2680.

I believe we have a lot of positive momentum and you will see the results in 2011!! We don't think for a second that we have all of the solutions, so any input you have or service you can provide to the Association would be well received and appreciated.

*See you all soon."*

Regards,  
Nev.



### MORE ANNUAL OPTA AWARDS!

In the last edition of THE CLUBHOUSE, we announced exciting new OPTA Annual Recognition Awards. We know that there are many unsung heroes in our community, so here's your chance to help us put the spotlight on them.

#### **THE 2010 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

We are now accepting written nominations for the most dedicated individual whose volunteer work, on the field or behind the scenes, has assisted your club or individuals in our sport. This person does not need to be a trapshooter necessarily, but they also must not have been paid for their work.

Please consider someone who could always be counted on to pitch in at a tournament at your club – or perhaps it's someone whose sunny disposition and willingness helped newcomers always feel welcome. Maybe it's the person who consistently (and without complaints) provided a lot of sweat equity at your facility to keep your club looking great and operating smoothly. These are just a few examples – we're sure you know of any extraordinary someone whose tireless efforts definitely made trapshooting better at your club during the ATA 2010 shooting year – September 1, 2009 – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010!

#### Deadline for submissions is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Nominations must be submitted with details on the individual's qualifications for the Award – and must be signed by at least two OPTA members from your club for validation. *Self-nominations will not be accepted.*

Please forward your nomination to your Secretary/Treasurer Pam Muma by email: [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com). All nominations will be carefully considered by the Board, with the winner being announced and recognized at the 2011 AGM on Monday August 1, 2011.

#### **THE 2010 OPTA CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD**

We are now accepting written nominations for the OPTA Club that strived the most to better their own popularity as well as the profile of trapshooting (registered and recreational) amongst their members and guests as well as within their local community (neighboring towns, county, region, etc.), during the last ATA shooting year: September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

Nominations must be submitted by the Club's own Executive and must detail what the Club accomplished to earn this Award. Some examples are: improved their services and facility; charitable work; increased membership; increased targets thrown; increased the number of registered tournaments at their club. We're certain there are OPTA clubs out there that worked hard last year to provide the best service, the best facility and the best reputation for trapshooting. *Let's hear from you!*

#### Deadline for submissions is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

Please forward your nomination to your Secretary/Treasurer Pam Muma by email: [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com). All nominations will be carefully considered by the Board, with the winner being announced and recognized at the 2011 AGM on Monday August 1, 2011.



### THE 2010 MIKE FULOP AWARD

While not a new award, it is time to remind everyone again that we are accepting nominations for this prestigious recognition of the OPTA Member who must be or has been an active trapshooter of registered targets (but competitive scores are not mandatory). He or she:

- demonstrates positive enthusiasm for the sport of trapshooting and its participants.
- promotes the sport of trapshooting through any tangible means (ie: organizing, volunteering, coaching, officiating, attracting new participants, donating prizes, etc.)
- demonstrates sportsmanlike behaviour
- exudes the "enjoyment" aspect of trapshooting
- acts as a selfless ambassador of the sport of trapshooting

**Deadline for submissions for this award is June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**

*This award is not to be confused with our new OPTA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD, which is specifically for that special someone at your home club. THE MIKE FULOP AWARD winner is most likely someone who spreads their good-will and thoughtfulness for our sport around the Province at various clubs.*

Please contact any Member of the OPTA Board, by phone, by e-mail or in person and tell us who you think would be a great candidate for this award for their efforts in the 2010 ATA shooting year – September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The Winner will be announced and recognized at the 2011 AGM on Monday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

### THE 2011 "HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL" AWARD

While this new award will not be handed out until the 2012 AGM, you need to start working towards the requirement for it now!!

This prize will be given to the OPTA member who shoots registered ATA targets (*penny pinchers not included*) at the greatest number of different clubs in the Province during the 2011 ATA shooting year: September 1, 2010 thru August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

**NOTE: The minimum number of various clubs that must be attended to qualify is 10 clubs.**

It does NOT matter if you won anything at any of the shoots. What DOES matter to us is that you are supporting the various OPTA clubs and their efforts to advance registered trapshooting in Ontario!

This IS a self-nominating award!! You must submit in writing a list of the clubs you attended for registered shoots during the 2011 ATA shooting year and on what dates, for verification.

**Deadline for submissions is November 1, 2011.** (We'll remind everyone of this Award again as the deadline approaches, but NOW'S THE TIME to start planning your shoot schedule so you can win this award.)



## IT'S COMING...THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL OPTA SUMMER BLAST

While it won't quite be summer yet, we're offering the 2011 OPTA SUMMER BLAST a little earlier this year. It will be at Hamilton Gun Club on Sunday, May 15, 2011. Perhaps our efforts will bring about summer weather earlier this year – *so mark this date in your calendar and help us make this happen!*

Here's the deal: This year's SUMMER BLAST will fall on the second day of HGC's two-day tournament on the May 14/15 weekend. HGC will be running the SUMMER BLAST, but the OPTA is providing and handing out all the trophies.

Just like last year at our inaugural SUMMER BLAST at the Toronto Int'l Trap & Skeet club, the following winners will be nicely 'rewarded' for their efforts! A total of 30 special, customized awards from Shamrock Leathers are up for grabs, into which cold, hard cash will be stashed!

## THE 2011 OPTA SUMMER BLAST TROPHIES

will be awarded to the following:

**Singles: Winners of All Classes (AA-D) and All Categories (Lady, Vet, Sr. Vet, Jr., Sub Jr.)**

**Handicap: Winners of the 18-21, 22-23, 24-25, 26-27 yardage groups and All Categories (as above)**

**Doubles: Winners of All Classes (AA-D) and All Categories (as above)**

**THE HOA CHAMPION**

**CASH AWARDS: \$35.00 FOR EVERY WINNER PLUS \$100.00 FOR THE HOA CHAMP**

## IT'S TIME TO MEET MORE OF YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

In the last edition of THE CLUBHOUSE, we got you up close and personal with your OPTA President Neville Henderson. We were really excited to hear from so many who enjoyed the interview – thanks, keep those cards and letters coming! Now, Neville may be a hard act to follow, but we're betting your Vice-President Bert Blackburn and Director Bill Malcolm are definitely up to the challenge. (But just in case, they brought a special friend to their photo shoot!)

### *When did you start trapshooting and how did you get into the sport?*

**Bert:** I joined the OPTA and ATA in August of 1999. I started shooting clay targets in August of 1975 as a skeet shooter. In the 90's I started shooting in the Bronze Horseshoe Trap League for the Twin City Rifle Club. I enjoyed the competition but our club did not throw registered targets. I attended the preliminary day of the Provincials 1999. Shot singles and handicap and I was hooked.

**Billy:** In 1997 my good friend Nelson South asked me if I would like to come out to the Woodstock club and try trap shooting. We went to the Grand in '98 and I bought an ATA membership so I didn't have to pay for parking. I went to my first registered shoot at St. Thomas on the Labour Day weekend in '98. Soon after that, Mike Empey from the Oxford club called my home and told my daughter that I was one of the best shooters in Ontario and that he wanted me to shoot for the club in the Southern Counties winter league. I've been laughing ever since!



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### What is your home club?

**Bert:** I was a member of the Galt Sportsmen's Club in the late 70's then the Twin City Rifle Club where I have been on the board for over 30 years- currently chairman. I rejoined at Galt to be able to shoot in the Silver Horseshoe Trap League. It is my base for Registered Targets.

**Billy:** I belong to the Oxford Sportsman's Club and Waterford Gun Club. At Oxford, I do the newsletter and am the ATA representative for the club.

### What is your current occupation – and how many years have you been at it?

**Bert:** I graduated from the University of Guelph as a veterinarian in 1975. I have been an owner of Buck Animal Hospital in Waterloo since that time. I have a special interest in surgery.

**Billy:** I drive a forklift at the General Motors parts warehouse in Woodstock for the last 27 ½ years.

### Will you share a bit of your personal life with our Members?

**Bert:** I live in Waterloo with my wife, of 38 years, Gale who is a retired primary school teacher and fanatic equestrian. On Sundays she goes to horse shows and I go shooting. Works well. We have one daughter, Rebecca, who is a chiropractor in Waterloo. She is also a fitness instructor and marathon runner. She has shot a little but doesn't have the time in her schedule at this stage in her career.

**Billy:** I live in Woodstock with my favorite human and better half, Gail. We have been married for over 37 years. We have three children and five grandchildren, which are the center of our lives. None of the family shoots, but I hope to change that with some of the grand kiddies.

### What other interests do you have besides trapshooting?

**Bert:** I have had periods in my life when I have been deeply involved in fly fishing, dog training and bird hunting. My career only allows one major diversion at a time. Once I retire I am sure I will participate more in these other activities.

**Billy:** Shooting clay targets have pretty well pushed any other interests from my life. I still deer hunt with some old friends.

### When did you join the OPTA Board?

**Bert:** I joined the Board in August of 2009. **Billy:** This is my 6<sup>th</sup> year on the Board.

### Why did you decide to join the Board - and what do you hope to achieve by being a Director?

**Bert:** I have really enjoyed my 10 years of shooting registered targets. This would not be possible without volunteers to be on the board. It is my turn to step up and do my part. I would like to see participation in trapshooting increase in the Province. We need to keep the membership well informed and engaged. Our Provincial Championships can be a world class event that will be enjoyable for all competitors who will then promote our sport and encourage more participation.

**Billy:** Smokey Smith and Ray Cockburn convinced me that I had lots to contribute and would be a welcome addition to the OPTA Board (They should both be used car salesmen, no offense intended!). The current Board has been working very hard to provide the membership with some real improvements, which have been and will continue to be rolled out this year. I'd like to see that continue with more improvements.



*What would you like to see the OPTA achieve for its membership in the next 5 years? 10 years?*

**Bert:** The OPTA is all about providing opportunities for members to shoot registered targets. We are here to help encourage more clubs to throw registered targets and increase the participation of the members of the club that are currently involved. We have already instituted more OPTA shoots and are expanding the prize packages. We are expanding our online presence with a new website and these newsletters. More initiatives will follow.

**Billy:** I'd like to see our membership and target numbers increase. I'd also like to see all of our clubs improve their facilities, equipment, target presentation, etc.

*If you were to brag about shooting in Ontario to non-residents, what would you say?*

**Bert:** We have many fine clubs in Ontario that throw great targets. The members are friendly and happy to help visitors participate with us. There is excellent competition as many of our shooters do well in international events like The Grand American and the Satellite Grands.

**Billy:** Great people, just ask Dave Monahan from South Carolina. *(Editor's note: Dave & Judy Monahan are great friends to our OPTA community as well as subscribers to THE CLUBHOUSE. They were once regular attendees at our Provincial Championships, but now greatly missed since moving out of New York State.)*

*Is there anything you would like the membership to know about you that they don't already?*

**Bert:** I have been fortunate enough to win each of the three disciplines at the Provincial Championships. My goal is to achieve a Grand Slam.

**Billy:** Can't think of anything, I usually talk too much anyway. *(Editor's note again: Billy is extremely modest. He earned the Mark Edmondson Award for most improved Doubles Shooter in 2009)*

*Any final words for our Members today?*

**Bert:** The upgrades the Board is making are a work in progress. We are open to suggestions for further improvement.

**Billy:** Constructive criticism is always welcome.



Bert Blackburn, Nora Martin Ross, Bill Malcolm



HERE'S YOUR ENTIRE OPTA BOARD FOR YOUR EASIER REFERENCE.  
REACH OUT AND GIVE US YOUR THOUGHTS ANYTIME. WE'RE WORKING FOR YOU!

### YOUR 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Neville Henderson: [neville.s.henderson@cogeco.ca](mailto:neville.s.henderson@cogeco.ca)

Vice-President: Bert Blackburn: [bertblackburn@gmail.com](mailto:bertblackburn@gmail.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Pam Muma: [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com)

Director: Bill Malcolm: [billmalcolm@rogers.com](mailto:billmalcolm@rogers.com)

Director: Basil Zmiywsky: [zeezee\\_m@hotmail.com](mailto:zeezee_m@hotmail.com)

Director: Barbara Sheldon: [sheldonshoots@rogers.com](mailto:sheldonshoots@rogers.com)

Director: Gord Kerr: [gord12@sympatico.ca](mailto:gord12@sympatico.ca)

Director: Warren McLay: [wmclay@cogeco.ca](mailto:wmclay@cogeco.ca)

### UPCOMING EDITIONS OF THE CLUBHOUSE

Be sure to keep your eyes open (or one eye, if that's how you shoot!) for the next edition of THE CLUBHOUSE. In addition to reporting the community news, we're also going to reveal more of the Board's exciting new initiatives, as well as the Provincial Championships' new trophy package which includes some new categories, including: "The Next Generation" Award!

And we'll be giving you the finer details on the exciting new CLUB TEAM RACE that is going to be held concurrently in all three events at the Provincials on Saturday July 30<sup>th</sup>. Here's a teaser.....every Club in Canada and the USA will be able to enter teams – *as many as they like* – to win a fantastic Clubhouse trophy, as well as added money for each winning Team member. *We bet your Club is going to want to start putting together its Teams soon!*

Remember, when interesting events happen at your Club or to Ontario shooters, please be sure to let us know by writing the Editor at [sheldonshoots@rogers.com](mailto:sheldonshoots@rogers.com). Our goal is to keep our community and friends informed, connected and shooting!

Please post a copy of this edition of THE CLUBHOUSE at your Home Club - and remember to forward it to your shooting buddies as well. And tell them it's so simple for them to get their own personal edition! All they have to do is send their e-mail address to [sheldonshoots@rogers.com](mailto:sheldonshoots@rogers.com) with their request. (Past issues available upon request). As always, the OPTA respects our members' privacy and does not share this information with any third parties.

~ See you again real soon in THE CLUBHOUSE! ~