Greetings from Ontario, Canada

There are lots of things happening in Ontario this month (July) and not just with our busy ATA events. This is the month that the Pan American Games unfolds across the Greater Toronto area and part of the Golden Horseshoe. All of the shooting events will be hosted at the Toronto International Trap & Skeet Club near Cookstown (about 20 minutes south of Barrie). As I write this article, in late May, construction is being completed so that by May 30 the ranges will-be operational. That does not mean the facility will be completely ready to host the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and spectators. Far from it. There will be landscaping, signage, additional structure set up (like portables for firearm lock-up, ammunition, administration, officials, athlete areas, bleachers, washroom facilities, parking) and so on. The site will be renamed during the event itself as the Pan Am Shooting Venue or similar wording. As with all major Games, security will be very tight.

After the Games conclude, this venue will be one of the finest multi-target shooting venues in Canada and will have a legacy for all target shooters for the foreseeable future. This is very important for ATA trap. What I have experienced over the years is that new shooters are often very naïve as to what shooting disciplines exist. Many think that "skeet shooting" covers the gamut when it comes to shotgun and clay targets. Rather than tell them or show them pictures, they can actually observe and even try each shooting discipline (under direct and immediate supervision).

ATA trap is an excellent precursor to Olympic trap and double trap. It is ideal because shooters can compete at a multitude of events and strive for excellence in competition with some of the best shooters in the world. The mistake (I feel) is that many shooters who have ambitions to represent their country in international trapshooting, for instance, have to get to the top two or three in their country before they even get to go to a major international event. Many never attain that level and disappear from the sport disillusioned and frustrated. If, however, they shoot ATA <u>and</u> international, there are always top flight competitions available that build the mental toughness and performance confidence that is critical to success.

To put it in more simplistic terms, our new shooting facility will attract a lot of interest. But it will be our active ATA programs that will attract and keep their interest. I see nothing but positive opportunities for all Canadian target shooting endeavours.

The clay target shooters that have been submitted for final COC confirmation to the Canadian Pan Am team are as follows:

Men's skeet:

Jonathon Weselake (B.C.); and

David Mylnikov (Toronto, Ontario) *is also a Junior

Men's trap:

Drew Shaw (Ontario); and

Curtis Wennberg (Ontario)

➤ Men's Double Trap:

Kabir Dhillon (while he lives in New Delhi, India,

he is a Canadian citizen and is also a junior); and

Paul Shaw (Ontario)

➤ Women's Trap:

Amanda Chudoba (Alberta); and

Second lady shooter TBD

Women's Skeet:

No entries

Hype is being generated through the "torch" relay. Like the Olympic torch relay that starts from the country that last hosted the Games, so too does the Pan Am Games have its own torch that left Guadalajara, Mexico, some time ago on its way to Ontario. It will have "torch bearers" that carry the torch and display it at each sport venue. Drew Shaw has been selected to be the torch bearer and this will take place June 11th.

I will see many of you in August. As always, if you have any questions or issues for which I can help you, you know how to reach me.

Paul Shaw

Ontario Delegate