

Greetings from Ontario, Canada

I write this article in late May. For those of us in Ontario, most registered target matches in our province will take place over the next 90 days. That is probably the case in most of the states and provinces in the northeast. We will have two major competitions in Ontario this summer – our OPTA Provincial Championships at the St. Thomas Club between July 30 and August 1st. Ontario is also host to the Canadian ATA Championships at the Hamilton Gun Club between June 29 and July 3.

We in Ontario are often under attack by the anti-gunners and municipalities that are intent on regulating our ranges out of existence by stringent noise by-laws and discharge of firearms by-laws.

And then, of course, there are government agencies intent on controlling what firearms we can and cannot possess and for what purpose. We have no Second Amendment right to own and bear arms. In Canada, owning a firearm is a “privilege” only. For our friends to the south, your constitutional right to own and bear arms is continually under attack. Your next president will be appointing at least one and possibly several justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has a wide latitude in how it interprets and applies the Second Amendment.

Where do the presumptive nominees of the two major parties stand on gun control? Will Hillary preserve or erode the Second Amendment? What about Trump? If your Second Amendment is compromised, it negatively impacts us in Canada. Inter-country restrictions on firearms, even parts and ammunition, are tough already. It can only get worse if the White House and Supreme Court are occupied by liberals.

In Canada a majority of Canadians voted for “change” in 2015 and did we get it – a Liberal government that actually campaigned on running a huge deficit. By the time Canadians wake up to reality, our grandchildren’s futures will be so badly mortgaged that capitalism and free enterprise will be faint memories. Trapshooting is expensive. It gets paid for out of discretionary surplus income and is out of the reach of many people. High taxes kill initiative, jobs and wealth creation. Why is Bernie Sanders resonating with so many young people who appear to believe that “socialism” is the panacea for America’s challenges? There is no free lunch. Venezuela, a socialist state, is in economic meltdown. Some characterize free enterprise and capitalism as negative virtues – the big bad “conservative” influence.

In defense of “conservative” values, I share with you some thoughts that you may or may not have read before:

A young woman was about to finish her first year of college. Like so many others her age, she considered herself to be very liberal, and among other liberal ideals, was very much in favour of higher taxes to support more government programs, in other words redistribution of wealth.

She was deeply ashamed that her father was a rather staunch conservative, a feeling she openly expressed. Based on the lectures that she had participated in, and the occasional chat with a professor, she felt that her father had for years harbored an evil, selfish desire to keep what he thought should be his.

One day she was challenging her father on his opposition to higher taxes on the rich and the need for more government programs.

The self-professed objectivity proclaimed by her professors had to be the truth and she indicated so to her father. He responded by asking how she thought the professors views were truths. Was it because they thought they were highly educated and knew best?

Taken aback, she answered rather haughtily that she was smart enough to figure this issue out herself. She reinforced this by telling her father she had a 4.0 GPA, and let him know that it was tough to maintain, insisting that she was taking a very difficult course load and was constantly studying, which left her no time to go out and party like other people she knew. She didn't even have time for a boyfriend, and didn't really have many college friends because she spent all her time studying.

Her father listened and then asked, "How is your friend Audrey doing?"

She replied, "Audrey is barely getting by. All she takes are easy classes, she never studies and she barely has a 2.0 GPA. She is so popular on campus; college for her is a blast. She's always invited to all the parties and lots of times she doesn't even show up for classes because she's too hung over."

Her wise father asked his daughter, "Why don't you go to the Dean's office and ask him to deduct 1.0 off your GPA and give it to your friend who only has a 2.0. That way you will both have a 3.0 GPA and certainly that would be a fair and equal distribution of GPS."

The daughter, visibly shocked by her father's suggestion, angrily fired back, "That's a crazy idea, how would that be fair! I've worked really hard for my grades! I've invested a lot of time, and a lot of hard work! Audrey has done next to nothing toward her degree. She played while I worked my tail off!"

The father slowly smiled, winked and said gently, "Welcome to the conservative side of the fence."

If you ever wondered what side of the fence you sit on, this is a great test!

If a conservative doesn't like guns, he doesn't buy one.

If a liberal doesn't like guns, he wants all guns outlawed.

If a conservative is a vegetarian, he doesn't eat meat.

If a liberal is a vegetarian, he wants all meat products banned for everyone.

If a conservative is down-and-out, he thinks about how to better his situation.

A liberal wonders who is going to take care of him...

If a conservative doesn't like a talk show host, he switches channels.

Liberals demand that those they don't like be shut down.

If a conservative is a non-believer, he doesn't go to church.

A liberal non-believer wants any mention of God and Jesus silenced.

If a conservative decides he needs health care, he goes about shopping for it, or may choose a job that provides it...

A liberal demands that the rest of us pay for his.

If a conservative reads this, he'll forward it so his friends can have a good laugh.

A liberal will delete it because he's "offended".

So, trap shooters, where do you stand on all of this – delete the message and shoot the messenger or pass it on?

Good shooting.

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