

ATA article for September 2016

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

As you read this edition of T & F magazine, registered trap shooters will have started the new target year.

But I wish to reflect briefly on the target year that has just ended. Ontario hosted two major tournaments this year – The Canadian ATA Trapshooting Championships at Hamilton and the Ontario Provincial Championships at St. Thomas. By Canadian standards both of these tournaments are significant in size and importance. These events don't take place without many, many volunteers spending countless hours doing all the things necessary to host the shoots. Thank them.

Ontario may soon have several more clubs that throw ATA targets – the Uxbridge Club and the Napanee Club, both east of Toronto. These clubs will appeal to a great number of potential ATA shooters who will no longer have to travel many hours to attend clubs in the Golden Horseshoe area.

There is also a philanthropic dimension to our sport. We, as trap shooters, are often accused of being rednecks. This perception is, for the most part, our own fault. Especially in Canada, firearm owners are reluctant to advocate for our sport – it is one of the best kept secrets. What an unfortunate lost opportunity. The shooting sports can be enjoyed by male, female, young, old, able bodied, challenged, and people from all walks of life. Few sports offer such diversity for the whole family from the recreational level right up to the elite competitor.

Emily Brown has spearheaded the AIM program in Ontario for youth. Her enthusiasm and passion for the sport has resonated with so many youthful conscripts to our sport. Pam Muma, our OPTA secretary, helps our clubs and individuals on issues over and above her required duties. Tracking and collating delegate pin winners is an example.

Many of our clubs have charity shoots that support good causes – just like New York State which raises a lot of money for MacDonald's House at its' State shoot.

As you can see, ATA trapshooting is not just about shooting. Our sport helps build discipline, character, perseverance, pursuit of excellence, and all these things have a positive impact on peoples' lives and benefit society in general.

Keep up the good work.

Paul Shaw  
Ontario Delegate