

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

When you read this article I expect it is "off season" for almost all ATA shooters. It certainly is for those of us in Ontario. My apologies for not getting the delegate team and delegate category team results to you for this edition - hopefully next month. For me, I have been absolutely jammed with work. I just got out of an 8 day jury trial on some pretty serious criminal charges. The jury gets charged by the Judge tomorrow and then is sequestered until it reaches its verdict. The Court is two hours away and I have had to pull a couple of all nighters - getting too old for this. Meanwhile, back at the office my secretary tells me I won't be able to find my desk. She telephoned me and said something like this "if you think you're going to the Pan American Games next week you'd better be prepared to pull a couple more all-nighters to get your office work done". I suppose we're all in the same boat - work before shooting.

I thought some of you may be interested in knowing that this year's "Olympic Style" trap championships was in Belgrade, Serbia. My son Drew and I and Albertan Len McDougall represented Canada. The Country that we saw was beautiful and the Serbian people we encountered were friendly and accommodating. All except the young lady at the front desk of our hotel. We had to leave early each morning for the shooting range and needed an early morning wake up call. I told her that Drew and I liked company so when she woke us up to please put a wake up call in to everybody else's room at the same time as well. She said she would (with a smile and a wink) but never did.

The Belgrade range was exceptional. It was on lands owned privately and had a plush hotel (the President Hotel), a number of sports fields and a large sport auditorium where the Davis Cup (tennis) was played in 2006. The local tennis star was Novak Djokovic who won the US Open. The only English channel we got at our hotel was CNN (with no voice), but we could watch the US Open on a local channel (we didn't need to understand the language). Bottom line at the World's, the lone Olympic quota slot was won by Czechoslovakia (their shooter finished second but the gold medalist from Italy could not win the quota spot as Italy already had all their's filled). The Pan Am Games has one quota spot. Neither Canada or US have any quota spots for the 2012 London Olympics.

On the political front, you will know by the time this article is read, what political party won the "provincial" election. It is too close to call. The provincial Liberals don't like guns and have a negative impact on firearm owners in this province in areas of their jurisdiction. The provincial progressive Conservatives if elected will be more sympathetic. The provincial NDP may hold the balance of power and if so - look out. For those of you that told me you would like to move to Canada, Ontario may not be a province you would want to come to if you cherish your firearms. The federal Conservatives, true to their word have introduced an omnibus crime bill and one feature is the abolition of the long-gun registry. (Details still being explored).

As always, if you have any newsworthy items you would like me to address - let me know.

Paul Shaw, ATA Delegate for Ontario