

ATA Article

Greetings from Ontario Canada

Well, the long gun registry is finally gone (for long guns). This was a Conservative election promise and they delivered. But the battle is still not over. Quebec is using the Courts to try to preserve registry data for Quebec firearm owners so that Quebec can set up its own provincial firearm registry. And some Chief Firearm Officers (CFO's), including Ontario's Chris Wyatt are continuing to collect point of sale data in ledgers that include the make, model & serial # of every gun sold as well as the name, address & firearms licence number of every gun owner. Vic Toews, the Public Safety Ministry is engaging these CFO's taking the position quite correctly I believe, that CFO's should not be maintaining a back door registry.

This "registry" issue is but the tip of the iceberg in the grand scheme of things. I am very concerned about when the transportation of non-restricted firearms (long guns) ends and the storage regulations (which are more restrictive) begin - even though the firearms are in a vehicle throughout. There is another issue affecting the very survival of gun clubs in Canada, that is so potentially serious that I will devote a complete article on it in due course. At this time, the issue is too sensitive to even discuss in any detail.

And now for an interesting true fact situation that happened recently at the Federal ammunition shell shoot at the St. Thomas club. The tournament was well run & well attended.

David Storing had generously donated five hundred dollars to be used at the club's discretion. A special event was created - a "miss & out". There were about 36 entrants & all shot from the 25 yard line. Two buy-backs were permitted. Winner would take all. The tension on the machine was increased over the course of the event by 6 turns. Participants dropped a target, bought back in - twice and all but two lost their last bonus target. It finally came down to two participants, Lloyd Beecroft, a very formidable handicap shooter and winner of many major handicap events and Katie Vanhaverbeke, one of our up & coming subjunior lady shooters. Katie had missed twice, & bought back in twice. Lloyd had missed only once and had two available buy-backs.

Dusk was settling in & these two contenders took the line for the final show-down. Katie was first to shoot at her speedy clay & crushed it. Lloyd shot and missed. He had one last buy-back. What happened next was in the eyes of many spectators remarkable. Lloyd declined to buy back in. The \$500 award belonged to one very happy young lady. I have not talked to Lloyd nor do I intend to. I would never want to diminish Katie's accomplishment to that event in time, but in the eyes of many people, Lloyd was the odd's on favourite. Those that told me about this incident believe it to be a magnanimous gesture by a true gentleman and an accomplishment by a young lady who will be even tougher next time around. The crowd witnessed something that made them feel good about our sport and those within it.

Paul Shaw, Ontario ATA Delegate