

Greetings from Ontario Canada.

Have you ever heard of a "Gillies" suit? Until recently I had never heard of that name but recall seeing movies where snipers adorned themselves and their guns in camouflage that made them look like part of the surrounding vegetation.

There is not much to do in Sparta at the Grand after shooting - Walmart is for many, the evening entertainment. But there is another store in Sparta - Buchheit, that has a lot of neat stuff and at that store, to my delight was a display of 4 piece "Gillie" suits for sale for about \$60.00. There is an acreage I was hoping to hunt this fall and rather than build a field blind for geese and ducks, why not just blend in with the field vegetation itself?

Shortly after I returned from Sparta I tried on my new Gillies suit in the basement and headed up the stairs to see what it looked like in the mirror. I was part way up the stairs as my wife, Bev was heading down them. A word of advice - if you are ever considering buying one of these Gillies suits - tell your spouse - in advance.

If you buy one of these Gillies suits - tell your spouse first.



At about the same time that Vermont delegate Dennis Devaux went missing at the 2012 NE Grand, this Abominable Snowman appeared.



On a serious note, registered trapshooting participation on both sides of the border is highly dependant on a strong economy. As in any family, the necessities of life are first in line. Discretionary money if and when available gets spent on things like sports. When times are tough our participation numbers are lower. Any way you cut it, the U.S. economy has and in my opinion continues to struggle. Canada is impacted with what happens to our south and there is virtually nothing we can do about it - except for one thing, and that is to encourage our American friends to get out and vote this month. Votes count and who is elected as President will set the stage for the next four years. Obama self-describes his term as "incomplete". Romney asks voters for a chance to do for America what he has done in the private and public sector - fix things and put things on the course to recovery.

Most of my U.S. friends are solidly in the Republican camp and that most closely aligns with my own Conservative ideology. Here are a few things Americans may want to consider as potential factors that may influence your vote.

1. Your second amendment (right to bear arms) is always under attack. Your Supreme Court is often required to make decisions that impact on this area. During the next four years there is a good possibility that at least one appointment will be made to the Supreme Court Bench. The President chooses the Judge and the choice may control the balance of ideological power on the Supreme Court Bench. Do you want Obama's appointment or Romney's?
2. Jobs - good paying jobs are key to the financial recovery of any Country. Who has the proven track record here of private sector job creation?
3. A social safety net is important in any civilized society. It is imperative for a Government to assist those who are truly in need and unable to look after themselves and their families. Are the current Government's dependancy measures sustainable? Is it important in your view for a Government to put initiatives in place that will help people to help themselves through small business employment and entrepreneurial measures? If so - which candidate is most likely to succeed in this area?
4. The U.S. spiralling debt alarms me. Businesses and individuals either live within their means or go bankrupt. They can't continually borrow money to pay the bills. As I see it, there are only two ways to make ends meet - increase revenues or decrease expenses, or both.

There have been so many revenue opportunities lost in the last couple of years - one of which was the western pipeline project which could have benefited Canada and U.S.A., created tens of thousands of jobs and made all of us less dependent on middle Eastern oil.

There will be a reckoning and the longer the debt builds the more difficult will be the hard landing. The debt situation is so perplexing to me in part because the average Joe on both sides of our common border cannot comprehend the magnitude of the debt and how it continues to spiral out of control.

Check out "US Debt Clock.org" for yourself.

On September 12, 2012 I asked my accountant/bookkeeper to get me an accurate figure of the debt - she couldn't because it was escalating too quickly to get an accurate "point in time" figure. The best she could come up with at the time was sixteen trillion, twenty-four billion, and forty-three million dollars (\$16,024,042,000,000.00).

Over the course of only one hour the debt increased by over one hundred and eleven million dollars (\$111,000,000.00).

To help put this into a more understandable analogy, perhaps we could host a fundraising competition to raise money to help carry the debt - not pay any of it down - just help carry the debt for a modest period of time. Let's use the Sparta shooting facility. We'll use all 27 competition banks (108 fields). Let's settle on 100 targets per shooter and ask each shooter to donate the equivalent in dollars of the cost of four boxes of shells (about \$30 tax in) and the equivalent of entry fees which we'll fix at a further \$30 for a combined total contribution per shooter of \$60.00. Should be doable right? We will keep it meaningful but modest. Let us undertake to carry the cost of one minute (60 seconds) of the debt. So where are we? According to my calculations we need to have only thirty thousand, eight hundred and thirty three (and a third) shooters (30,833.33) or 6,167 five person squads (Good luck even finding this magnitude). If we can push through an average of 108 squads an hour we can conclude this fundraising shoot in slightly more than 57 shooting hours as long as we take no breaks. We'll need to start each day at 8 am and shoot until 8 pm and it will take us a little over 4 3/4 days. (About the same number of days we do the preliminary days at the Grand - Wed to Sunday with the exception of shooting basically early morning to dusk without any breaks every day.)

But look at what we will have accomplished - we will have carried about one minute of the debt increase at September 12, 2012 levels (\$1,850,000.00). If the interest rate on the debt goes up or Congress raises the debt threshold we may have to fundraise longer. Wonder who has the remaining 1,439 minutes covered for the day we choose for our fundraiser event? One cannot start paying off the actual debt until the debt escalation is stabilized and contained. Too much austerity will kill the economy. Too much stimulus is equally lethal. Is Obama or Romney best able to work with the Congress and Senate to avoid the U.S. (and Canada on its heels) heading over the fiscal cliff?

Is the greenback headed for devaluation? Our loonies and toonies will be forced to respond. If you think it's bad now, wait until after the U.S. election.

Do you suppose Nostradamus' prophecies of impending doom and gloom for December 21, 2012 took into consideration the escalating world financial crisis? Did the Mayan calendar end by coincidence on December 21, 2012 only because there was no Mayan capable of generating another because of their lavish human sacrifices? Are all the December 21, 2012 survivalists

misguided as were the year 2000 millennium fear mongers? I suggest we all plan ahead for December 22, 2012 and beyond. Hope it won't be wasted.

Paul Shaw, Ontario ATA Delegate