



## THE OPTA CLUBHOUSE

### APRIL 2012 Edition

[www.ontariotrap.com](http://www.ontariotrap.com)

By the time you receive this edition of the Clubhouse the registered shooting in Ontario will have begun. Many Ontario shooters were able to get away during the winter months to enjoy some shooting in the States. I understand that the attendance at the Southern Grand was over 12% higher than last year. There were 46 shooters from Ontario which represents 5.3% of the total number of shooters in attendance. Of these competitors many of them brought back trophies to Ontario and the OPTA congratulates them on their success.

Event # 2 – Preliminary Handicap –	Sub Veteran winner Denis Louiseize from Sturgeon Falls with a 95
	Sr Veteran Runner Up Jerry Mitchell from Beachville with a 94
Event # 3 – Preliminary Doubles –	Class D Runner up Denis Louiseize with a 88
Event # 4 – Leo Harrison III Singles –	Class D Runner up Jerry Mitchell with a 95
Event # 5 – Preliminary Handicap -	Veteran Winner – Bill Wylie from London with a 99
	4 <sup>th</sup> Place winner Terry Jordan from St Thomas with a 95
	5 <sup>th</sup> Place winner Paul Shaw from Collingwood with a 95
Event # 6 – Preliminary Doubles –	Class C Winner Dominic Gitto from Oakville with a 91
Event # 7 – Singles Class Championship –	Class AA Winner Lloyd Beecraft from Breslau with a 99
	Class A Runner Up Dominic Gitto with a 99
Event # 8 – Preliminary Handicap –	Runner Up Verne Higgs from Sparta with a 97
Event # 11 – Doubles Championship –	Class D Winner Denis Louiseize with a 93
Event # 12 – Remington Handicap –	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Rick Igerchich from Delhi with a 96
Event # 14 – Singles Championship –	Class AA Winner Lloyd Beecraft with a 199
	Class A Winner Dominic Gitto with a 197
Event # 15 – Handicap Championship –	Sr Veteran Runner up Charlie Boggis from Kitchener with a 96
High All Around –	Class AA Winner Lloyd Beecraft with a 385

The Southern Grand was only one of many winter shoots attended by Ontario shooters. Congratulations to all those who brought trophies back to Ontario.

#### President's Corner

#### Results of the Membership Survey

The survey results are now in and the Board is pleased to share them and our preliminary actions with the membership. It will take some time to fully analyze and determine how we effectively deal with all of the input received. We will keep the membership posted as decisions are made.

We received a total of 83 surveys out of 415 mailings. That is a response rate of about 20% which is much better than most surveys!

Many respondents did not provide a response for every question; hence, the total number of responses per question varies. This does not diminish the value of the input. Not answering a question simply mean it is in the middle range.

A copy of the survey along with the weighted average of the responses is attached as an appendix along with the comments that were offered. A high weighted average indicates a high level of agreement and a low number indicates a high level of disagreement. The weighted averages are color coded to give a visual sense for the level of support. The heat map is color coded for the weighted averages as follows:

- 0) between 3.5 and 5.0 is green indicating *strong agreement*;
- 1) between 2.5 and 3.5 is yellow indicating *agreement*; and,
- 2) between 1 and 2.5 is red indicating *strong disagreement*.

As can be seen, there are many issues where there is strong support and the comments tend to reinforce the numerical results. There are also contentious issues. The comments provide ideas that will be useful in making strategic and other decisions about the direction of the OPTA over the next few years. It will be informative to do another survey in a few years to get a sense for how well the Board has performed as well as identify further changes that will improve the sport.

The balance of this article will focus on the Board's interpretation of the results and provide a sense for how each will be addressed going forward.

Question 1 sought information about the membership's support for raising revenue. The support for increasing revenue was high and it is clear there are preferred approaches to raising money. The Board is sensitive to the budgetary constraints of people on fixed income and took this into account in making decisions. Based on the feedback the Board decided to:

- 1. Focus on increasing revenue from advertising and sponsorship. The Board will seek advertisers for the program and already has positive commitment from several sources. It is planned to charge \$300 for the inside front page and outside back page; \$200 for the inside back page; \$125 for a full interior page; and, \$75 for half of an interior page. Several companies and individuals have offered to take an advertisement.
- 2. Advertising in the Newsletter will cost \$125 for a full page and \$75 for a half page.
- 3. A sponsorship program will be set up and sponsors with recognition in the program. A donation of \$99 or less will be a Bronze Sponsor; a donation between \$100 and \$199 a Silver Sponsor; \$200 to \$499 a Gold Sponsor; and, \$500 or over will be a Platinum Sponsor. Several sponsors have already provided funds.
- 4. Membership fees will increase to \$20 effective in the 2013 target year. The increase is less than the cost of 2 boxes of shells and should be palatable to most members.
- 5. After much discussion, it was decided to increase target costs by 1/2 cent per target. This amounts to an additional 50 cents per hundred targets or \$1.50 for all three events.

***If readers are interested in advertising or becoming a sponsor, please contact Pam Muma at [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com).***

Question 2 sought information about the program. The membership was satisfied with the size and content and recommended more advertising. The Board will increase the number of pages and seek advertisers as outlined in the discussion of Question #1.

Question 3 sought member input about the overall organization of the shoot. There were some strong positives and a number of significant negatives. Warren McLay and I will meet with the HGC executive to begin discussion about what we can do to improve the facilities. The following summarizes the discussion points:

- 1. We need to improve the washroom facilities, in particular, the portable toilets. The current supplier does not work on Sunday and Monday of the long weekend so the last clean up was Saturday. We will suggest changing the suppliers and adding more toilets.
- 2. The speaker system needs to be upgraded on the west side and speakers placed in strategic positions on the east side.
- 3. Though timing was significantly improved last year, there is still a desire to start earlier so the shoot-offs can be conducted in natural light. The Board discussed this in detail but believed the real issue is getting the early squads up and shooting on time. We will be offering a \$2.00 discount to each shooter in the 1st squads to sign up. However, the squad must start shooting within 5 minutes of the start time or the next squad will start. If the whole squad does not start on time, it will have to re-squad and forfeit the discount. If a single shooter fails to start shooting in the given time frame, but the rest of the squad does, the individual will have to take a make-up. This approach may provide some offset to the increase in target fees.

4. More picnic tables and rest benches will be provided along with tents to increase the shaded areas.
5. Golf-carts will be available for a fee starting on the day of the shell shoot.

Question 4 sought input regarding trophies. Responders offered a number of recommendations which the Board has discussed. The following changes will be made for the 2012 Ontario Championships:

1. The money allocated to trophies has been doubled.
2. The returning doubles shooter trophy has been dropped.
3. The two man team will be based on ATA average with the combined average of the two shooters to be 190 or lower.
4. Bonus Bucks are being dropped with the money transferred to trophies and to double the handicap purse. The idea behind Bonus Bucks was to provide a reasonable cash award rather than a large number of insignificant awards. The Board believes this objective can be better accomplished by re-allocating the cash to the handicap event as all competitors compete on a more equitable footing.
5. The club team championship award has been dropped due to lack of participation.

This question also sought input about the number of targets required to qualify for the All Star teams. The current requirements were considered acceptable though the northern and eastern clubs raised valid points about travel distances to get in enough targets. While sympathetic to the issue, the Board decided to retain the current requirements as suggested by the survey.

Question 5 asked about the Newsletter. This is a popular item and the Board is committed to providing it on a quarterly basis. Members who are interested in receiving a personal copy should forward their e-mail address to [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com) and they will be added to the OPTA's e-mail list. Additionally, the Newsletter will be posted on the website and a few copies will be mailed/e-mailed to clubs who can make it available to members who do not have access to a computer.

Question 6 focused on the number of OPTA sponsored shoots and other issues such as Home Club grounds etc. There were some interesting responses to the questions in this section! The input to the questions under #6 strongly support the desire for members to have a home club, whether it be owned by the OPTA or through affiliation with another club. The following summarizes the decisions that were made and identifies recommendations that will require more planning;

1. It was decided the OPTA would sponsor trophies for two shoots at smaller clubs over the summer. Since the attendance will not be as big as it would be at a larger club, it was decided to half the sponsorship amount. If this proves successful, the decision will be revisited next year.
2. Though most members seemed to support having an arrangement with an existing club to be the host club for the OPTA, our sense is that the preference is to have our own grounds. Recognizing the financial and political difficulties of establishing a new facility, most members voted for the alternative. The Board very quickly recognized the issues associated with establishing a home grounds but did not reach a resolution. This issue will require further consideration but currently it seems like a very stretch goal.
3. As an alternative, many members supported making an arrangement with an existing club to be the host club. The preference among the membership is the Hamilton Gun Club with some caveats. While making an arrangement with an existing club is a more feasible alternative than establishing a proprietary home grounds, the Board identified a number of issues that need to be resolved. Over the next few months the Board will discuss the recommendation further and investigate the potential arrangements that could be made.
4. Though HGC is the most popular candidate for the host club, a number of issues were raised in the survey with the administration at the club. While there is substance to the issues, the club has made a lot of progress in improving administration. The 2011 Championships were the most efficient in recent memory though there was significant support from the OPTA Board. Over the next few months, we will have discussions with HGC about the possibility of the club being the OPTA home grounds. However, the relationship must be symbiotic with clear benefits, financial and otherwise, to both partners. As these discussions progress, we will report back to the membership.

In conclusion, the Board thanks the membership for its enthusiastic response to the survey. There was excellent input that will provide guidance in improving trapshooting in Ontario for at least the next two years. More importantly, the results gave a strong sense that trapshooting has a strong core of ardent supporters which is very encouraging for a volunteer Board.

We look forward to seeing you all at shoots over the summer and hope you all have your best personal year ever!

## OPTA Membership Survey

Question	Strongly Agree (5)	(4)	Don't care(3)	(2)	Strongly Disagree(1)	Weighted Average
<b>1. Membership fees</b> - OPTA fees have not changed for decades. During that time, shoot expenses have increased, interest rates are virtually 0, membership fees are subject to HST, and there is a high likelihood we will lose the sports grant. Would you support an increase in either the annual fees, target charges or some combination to maintain and improve the quality of awards and winnings at the Ontario Championships. Indicate below if you have a preference for how this could be best achieved.	4	4	1	2	1	
1a increase membership fees	30	11	3	3	10	3.84
1b increase target charges	8	3	2	2	21	2.31
1c a combination of 1a and 1b	27	12	5	6	16	3.42
Comments:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ With only 254 shooters an increase in membership would make very little difference but 25 or 50 cents in daily target fees would add up quickly</li> <li>➤ I as a senior vet have the same problems you have with low interest rates, no pay check anymore etc. Give Senior Vets a break, maybe a life membership one time charge?</li> <li>➤ We need our own home grounds</li> <li>➤ We need new home grounds</li> <li>➤ Don't increase target charges</li> <li>➤ Something needs to be done. Trophies are not something we can show off at this point therefore charge more and let's have some trophies worth bragging about – ex silver coins maybe</li> <li>➤ Ontario presently has one of the highest daily fees to increase target charges would penalize those who shoot the most. Membership fee increase would affect all shooters.</li> <li>➤ All the above</li> <li>➤ As you say, everything has gone up</li> <li>➤ I think members will accept 1 payment with less remorse</li> <li>➤ The reason you are not getting any more shooters is that it is too expensive as it is. Eliminate the \$10.00 OPTA Fee – there is money there that was leant to the Hamilton Gun Club</li> <li>➤ Above costs should be reviewed annually</li> <li>➤ To \$25.00 referring to 1a</li> <li>➤ Increase membership to \$15.00 and small increase in target fees</li> <li>➤ By 2 or 3 dollars – referring to 1a</li> <li>➤ Triple or double OPTA fees at least</li> <li>➤ Get companies to advertise to cover costs</li> <li>➤ No increase</li> </ul>						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ \$20.00 a year</li> <li>➤ Increase membership fee to \$15.00 and target charges by 1/4 or 1/2 cents per target</li> <li>➤ As long as all money goes back to the sport for awards to the young (juniors) and average shooters – not to all the hot shots and no person profits in money</li> <li>➤ Penalizes those who shoot a lot of targets – referring to 1b</li> <li>➤ Unless there is something new we do not pay GST – Grants have remained app. The same for the last 4-5 years and usually cover expenses for trophy pkg. – until grants are totally lost increases are not required. I agree that some expenses have increased and would support an increase to membership fees if minimal. Perhaps an increase in OPTA club memberships should be considered as they are of the few who profit. Perhaps asking the host club for the provincial championships to donate added money as they had done in past years would be a consideration. Too many trophies and awards increase the expenses.</li> <li>➤ Sell merchandize – get sponsors – sell ads on website – get donors</li> <li>➤ Double membership fee and up target prices to \$32.00/100</li> </ul>						
<b>2. The OPTA shoot program</b>						
2a the current program layout is acceptable and easy to read	46	16	4	1	1	4.54
	30	21	9	1	1	4.26
2c reduce the number of options offered in each event thus freeing up more space in the program and reducing the size.	11	8	16	1	18	2.87
Comments:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Program should be larger</li> <li>➤ Solicit more advertisers</li> <li>➤ I am ok with the current program it's standard to all other programs in the trap shooting (ATA)</li> <li>➤ Email, website less cost</li> <li>➤ 2011 best program in years!</li> </ul>						
<b>3. OPTA Shoot organization</b> – For 2012 the OPTA will be using the portable on the west side for classification, squading and cashiering. Results will again be posted on the west side and we want to continue to use squad hustlers and shaded areas.	14	2	1		1	4.56
3a Having separate lines for classifying, squading & cashiering is a benefit	65	13	4			4.74
3b Having squad hustlers is worthwhile & keeps the shoot on schedule	64	10	2	1	2	4.73
3c the loud speakers were audible	24	14	10	10	16	3.27
3d I agree with a 9:00 am start time	62	12	2	3	1	4.64
3e The trap help was well trained	25	23	17	6	7	3.68

3f the trap fields and equipment were well maintained	26	34	2	5	3	4.07
3g there are adequate rest areas	15	22	11	15	14	3.12
3h the toilet facilities were well maintained and enough of them	17	14	8	12	26	2.79
Comments:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Disgusting (referring to 3g)</li> <li>➤ Toilet facilities were NOT maintained and need more!</li> <li>➤ Except for 200 Singles maybe 8am may help (referring to 3d)</li> <li>➤ Need probably flush toilets for ladies (referring to 3g)</li> <li>➤ Start time on Championship days should start earlier to finish earlier leaving time for shoot-offs in natural light</li> <li>➤ Additional seating benches are needed</li> <li>➤ Scorers inadequate-to many free targets given at times</li> <li>➤ Referring to 3a – but also have 4 to 6 computers vs 2 – only to speed up wait time.</li> <li>➤ Referring to 3b – yes but make it happen, takes way too long to shoot</li> <li>➤ Referring to 3d – teach them to expedite shooters</li> <li>➤ Referring to 3g – need more</li> <li>➤ More picnic tables</li> <li>➤ Be “punctual” on starting events!</li> <li>➤ Required better speaker system to camping area</li> <li>➤ Need more loud speakers, facing waiting shooters (communication is poor)</li> <li>➤ Was not there</li> <li>➤ Needs improvement – referring to 3c</li> <li>➤ More required – referring to 3f</li> <li>➤ I would like to see squad numbers up high at the banks so you can see squad up and what squad is next</li> <li>➤ Working speakers in the campgrounds would be of great help</li> <li>➤ Having a PA system for shoot off's would improve efficiency</li> <li>➤ Toilet on west end mess</li> <li>➤ But suffer abuse from rude shooters – referring to the second 3d</li> <li>➤ Need more sunshade – referring to 3f</li> <li>➤ Toilet facilities are abysmal. I have seriously considered skipping the provincials because of this. There is no excuse for the state of the portable potties on the line especially the orange one. It's <u>inhumane</u> and embarrassment to the OPTA. Also we no longer camp at Hamilton because of water and shower conditions.</li> </ul>						
<b><u>4. Trophies and Added Money</u></b>						
4a prefer more added money per event	31	13	24	3	6	3.78
4b prefer fewer options per event and higher purses	14	14	22	6	15	3.08
4c would like higher quality trophies	25	15	18	4	7	3.68

4d liked the format of:						
i. new shooter award	34	20	12	2	1	4.22
ii. two shooter team	25	17	15	2	9	3.69
iii. returning doubles shooter	18	11	22	7	8	3.36
iv. next generation award	23	16	12	6	6	3.70
v. club team championship award	19	8	16	7	16	3.11
4e I agree with the target requirements for the Ontario All Star Teams  Total targets (shot in Ontario): Singles 1500(1000); Handicap 1300(800); Doubles 1000(500) – Plus OPTA requirements?	34	15	8	4	13	3.72
Comments:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Less classes-3 lewis classes (referring to 4a)</li> <li>➤ To high – we only have 2 clubs worth shooting at (referring to 4d)</li> <li>➤ Added money should go to high score in the event-not a draw. If a person wishes to get money on luck go to a casino, play the lottery or go to a bingo.</li> <li>➤ Too high – referring to 4d</li> <li>➤ Referring to 4c ii – Liked the event did not like restrictions, you needed an AA or A shooter – B shooter could not participate – why not a “b” with c” or d”</li> <li>➤ The number of targets that need to be shot to qualify is fine where they’re shot should not matter ONLY 400 ONTARIO CHAMPIONSHIP</li> <li>➤ Totals too high, not enough shoot opportunities in Eastern Ontario</li> <li>➤ Prefer fewer options per event but not higher purses – referring to 4b</li> <li>➤ It is too hard and expensive to travel from eastern and northern Ontario shooters to get the required Ontario targets</li> <li>➤ To high for (shot in Ontario). Too many people out of these target requirements. Example I live in Northern Ont. I can not go to all shoots so far (cost)</li> <li>➤ Need – 1000 – 1000 S good</li> <li>➤ Are we really going there again? – referring to 4d</li> <li>➤ Two shooter team does nothing for B class shooter. Club team does not benefit small clubs or non club <u>members</u>. Also did not like <u>bonus</u> buck format. Added money should be awarded with trophies-----Lotteries? – Buy a ticket</li> <li>➤ Trophy package good, maybe too many</li> <li>➤ 2011 Good trophies – referring to the second 4b</li> <li>➤ Most important area to improve besides washrooms – referring to the second 4b</li> <li>➤ Should be calculated by average not class – referring to 4cii</li> <li>➤ Trophies at the 2011 Provincials were of very poor quality and inconsistent. Worst case – gun cases/cookie jars etc.</li> </ul>						
<b>5. Newsletter</b> - there are currently about 6 editions per year					1	1

5a I look forward to reading the Ontario Clubhouse Newsletter	46	21	8		1	4.38
5b Four editions per year is acceptable	39	24	8	3	6	4.09
5c The layout and size of the newsletter is good	46	30	5		2	4.42
5d I like the content of the Clubhouse newsletter	39	29	7		2	4.34
5e I would like to see more advertisements in the newsletter to cut costs	26	18	26	5	2	3.79

Comments:

- There should be only 1 newsletter per year to save mailing costs
- I don't recall ever getting one
- Do not use regular mail system (cost too much) "EMAIL ONLY"
- Preference to have more info on other club shoots/happenings – get other clubs involved to promote their sites
- 2 a year is enough.
- 2 Editions per year is acceptable in paper other editions on the OPTA web site
- Not the recent one very poor design – referring to 5c
- Not the recent one very poor, old news – referring to 5d
- Mistakes now – referring to 5d
- Last year's issues were excellent – this new one is not good

<b>6. Other</b>						
6a I would like to see more OPTA awards given at other Ontario shoots and not just at the OPTA championships (there are currently 3 OPTA sponsored shoots, the Ontario's, the Summer Blast, St. Thomas Labour Day team shoot)	31	8	14	1	6	3.95
i. I like the format of the summer blast	21	15	23	1	0	3.93
ii. I like the format of the St. Thomas Team Shoot	34	18	10	2	3	4.16
<b>6b the OPTA needs its own home grounds <u>OR</u></b>	20	2	3	2	15	3.24
<b>6c should make arrangements with an Ontario Club to be the OPTA home grounds</b>	18	10	4	0	8	3.75
<b>6d Don't change a thing and keep the OPTA championships @ Hamilton each year</b>	32	3	4	2	11	3.83
<b>6e I would like to see the OPTA championships hosted at a different Ontario club each year.</b>	19	4	3	4	20	2.96
➤ Don't get carried away with expensive trophies – everyone pays but only a few receive.						
➤ It would be a good idea to have another club host it but besides St Thomas, maybe TITS. There is not enough clubs big enough to host.						

➤ Hamilton would be ok except the administration of the shoot needs improvement ie squading, trap field assignment, prize payouts – seemed to be very disorganized at Hamilton	
➤ I think Hamilton is the best place for OPTA championships because of the great background and adequate trap fields as long as they can continue to get help to run the shoots and accommodate the campers etc.	
➤ I thought this was Hamilton (referring to 6b)	
➤ I wouldn't mind pay \$100.00 a year if that meant that Ontario shooting had their own home grounds	
➤ We need our own home grounds	
➤ Other clubs can benefit by having the Ontario's at their club	
➤ Why should Hamilton always get it. St Thomas could do it with 200 targets per day no problem.	
➤ Talked to a fellow in Ohio, said his club gives out ½ oz silver coins as trophies – something that holds its value and would be cool to show off – versus "portfolio", "plastic duck", Eskimo soapstone crap	
➤ St Thomas team shoot should require teams be classified with a number of shooters from each class making up a team – not lewis style awards	
➤ Keep the Provincial Championships at Hamilton Gun Club, they have the best background in Ontario and throw the best targets as evident by the scores. Keeping the Provincial Championships at Hamilton for the investment the Ontario shooters made to this club.	
➤ I would like to thank the OPTA Board for their efforts and time they donate to help us enjoy our sport. Thank all of you from the bottom of my heart and maybe we should show our support more often	
➤ I was not impressed with the classifying at the Provincials or the Canadians!!	
➤ I enjoy shooting but don't like waiting so long between events, club needs 4 persons just to expedite start times and to get shooters ready. Lots of time the traps are open and no one shooting	
➤ I am very impressed with job the Board is doing – Keep up the good work	
➤ Make Hamilton the home grounds	
➤ I think you guys are doing a great job. Add more monies and better trophies you will get more shooters.	
➤ Hamilton Gun Club is the best facility anywhere in Ontario, the annual scores prove it	
➤ Great survey	
➤ Keep up the good work	
➤ I would like to see the OPTA championships alternated every few years with St Thomas	
➤ A home grounds away from Hamilton and Toronto, for ease of travel and less traffic congestion, somewhere more central for the whole province	
➤ Keep up the good work everyone and thank you	
➤ Provincial Championships should rotate each year. Rotation brings out the better for everyone	
➤ If 12 traps are still in the Constitutions and Bylaws it should be taken out. As long as a club has the capability to run of shoot of this size they should be able to host it.	
➤ The extra costs supplemented by the OPTA for Hamilton to host the championships should be reviewed. All rewards were reaped by Hamilton and this is the host clubs job. By supplementing the host club it nullifies most of this survey.	
➤ New shooter – can not comment on many areas	
➤ Referring to 6d – host club must have facilities/adequate trap fields etc.	

➤ Number of small club are having fewer or no shoots. Biggest reason is likely too little help. Perhaps a random draw for participating shooters and shoot personnel could provide some incentive.	
➤ There are obvious flaws with this survey however the idea is good and it should be tried again. Regarding finances, I need more info about the grant (that I didn't know existed) and why it is declining. NOTE – the number of shooters is declining and/or the number of targets shot at is declining. Any increased in target costs will just make this situation worse as we also deal with gov't changes to CPP and OAS etc and cost of living. Please do not raise prices any further. Hamilton Gun Club is making a big mistake with the west side fee all these years and nothing to show for it and they are about the most expensive clubs in the province to shoot at. This makes me drop a shoot or an event just to save and stay within budget. I may pack it in if it gets any worse – Then I'll be part of the statistics.	
➤ Cost to high – referring to 6b	
➤ Best place for it good background good trap layout and field – central for all shooter – referring to 6c	
➤ Should get other clubs involved as Hamilton location could disappear as community's grow	
➤ To me anyone of 6 b, c or d are acceptable options.	
➤ You should lower the target requirements for OPTA Provincial shoot to allow more shooters from up north to shoot without penalty 23 for Handicap and penalty "B" for singles	
➤ Thank you! You've been great	
➤ When they go from one event to another there is too much time in between. Start the next event right away. As soon as traps open up.	
➤ I do not believe we can justify the expense and work involved to secure a home grounds. Who would be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep this would be a huge expense for the OPTA considering we currently host one major tournament per year and annually lower attendance pates. HGC has the best background throws more consistent targets and has the best suited facility to host the prov. Champs. Records will prove that higher scores are produced at this club on a regular basis shooters proved this to be the club of choice with an overwhelming majority vote to allow the OPTA Board to negotiate a load to the HGC to rebuild it's facility to ensure that the Prov. Champs would continue to be held at this club exclusively. Although there may be other clubs that would do a fine job of running this tournament let us not forget that the OPTA's first responsibility is to the membership and not the clubs.	
➤ I would also remind the Board that although not in writing there has been a gentleman's agreement that if the HGC mortgaged their property to the OPTA for the funds required to rebuild the facility for the purpose of accommodating the Prov. Champs that the OPTA in good sportsmanship would allow the HGC to continue hosting this tournament until this loan was repaid. Has this Board become less than good sportsmen? Respectfully submitted	
➤ OPTA Board needs to do the best for the shooters as it sees fit	
➤ But only if club is large enough to host a major event – referring to 6d	
➤ The downfall of Ontario shooting has had a lot to do with the OPTA Champs and Hamilton Gun Club. Ideally the purchase of property would provide a fresh start but may be unattainable. I am from the far South West of Ontario and participated in the OPTA Championships for many years there was a group of 15 of us that participated, me and 10 others were tired of the trip surely because of Hamilton Gun Club. If this is the trend with everyone then this issue needs to be addressed. Every state that we travel to has a well run facility to be proud of, Ontario does not.	
➤ Unless Hamilton cleans up its facility and improve the management of its club, OPTA should be moved elsewhere. The background is great but they must update structural elements eg. washrooms, ground. TITS would be one option but there are others too.	
➤ Two additional comments: 1. Try not to allow adjacent clubs to have shoots on the same day. It only serves to dilute turnout at both clubs eg. Crumlin and Oxford May 2012. 2. Provincial teams should be calculated electronically and automatically using ATA records. You will produce/recognize more accurately.	

## **Message from Your ATA Delegate**

Greetings shooters. As many of you know, the delegate reports that I write for Trap and Field Magazine are often done 60 or more days in advance of the publication date. After the publication of my article I then share it. This gives Trap and Field Magazine some publishing priority.

What I am about to share with you in this article is a reversal of the above. In other words, you will have an opportunity to read this info before my Trap and Field article which will have similar content but will not be published until June or later. Since the shooting season is starting in earnest and you will be transporting firearms in your vehicles this may be a “must read”.

I am often retained to defend firearm owners on a variety of firearm-related charges. Make no mistake about it, whether the charges are laid under the Criminal Code or the Firearms Act (as a breach of its regulations for instance) they are all “criminal charges”. A conviction can have very serious consequences with the potential even on a first offence for such things as “careless storage” of a firearm of a criminal record, a firearms prohibition for five to ten years (usually), denial of a passport or ban on entry to other countries (e.g. United States of America), a fine, possible jail time, probation and the list goes on. Some in law enforcement have been known to candy-coat or trivialize the consequences. More and more individuals charged with offences are coppering plea-bargains in situations where they could probably have won their case if it went to trial. But lawyers are expensive and results unpredictable so the path of least resistance is tempting for many people.

As a lawyer I do my utmost best to know the law in areas in which I practice and give the best advice I can. I am a huge advocate of “preventative” law – in other words, in helping firearm owners understand the law and avoid getting into trouble in the first place.

When the Firearms Act was proclaimed in force, a series of Regulations were incrementally enacted that set out a “prescribed” set of measures that dictated what firearm owners were required to do in given situations

The “Storage, Display, Transportation and Handing of Firearms by Individuals Regulations” is one of the many regulations with the force of “criminal law” sanctions that dictates minimum standards in given circumstances.

In this article I will be referring only to those aspects of that regulation that relate to “non-restricted” firearms (such as most rifles and shotguns). And I will further restrict this article to

(1)Transportation of Non- Restricted Firearms

and (2)Storage of Non-Restricted Firearms

Prior to his untimely death in 2006, David Tomlinson of the National Firearms Association and myself regularly chatted about firearm legislation, the regulations, and the emerging and settled caselaw. We shared notes and caselaw.

Since David’s death there appears to be a huge information “void”. David did a great job in collecting and disseminating caselaw and defence arguments and strategies to assist defence lawyers and firearm owners. He was not a lawyer but knew more about the firearm laws than most lawyers that practice in the field of firearm defence work. David and I did not always agree on interpretation and strategy but we certainly did agree on one thing and that is that when a non-restricted firearm entered a vehicle, the Transportation of Non-Restricted Firearms Regulation applied until the firearm left the vehicle, irrespective of the length of time it was present in the vehicle.

There is an alarming increase in the number of charges being laid against individuals because the police are being instructed to investigate how long a firearm was present in a vehicle and under what circumstances and if they believe the firearm is being “stored” in the vehicle as opposed to being “transported” charges are being laid if they deem it appropriate.

In other words, law enforcement is taking the position that the firearm owner can't rely on the "transportation" regulation and that the "storage" regulation applies or S.86(1) of the Criminal Code of Canada applies (careless storage). A conviction for either has the same consequences.

When the transportation regulation ends and the "storage" regulation or S.86(1) kicks in is anybody's guess. I have seen cases recently where a firearm left in a vehicle overnight and in complete compliance with the transportation regulation has attracted charges under the storage regulation for unsafe storage. I have had two clients charged with careless storage inside the last six months in the same judicial district who reported the theft of a single firearm from their locked vehicle. The "transportation" regulation was complied with in each case and the firearm had been left in the vehicle for a short time period only (one case overnight and the other case – while the person worked at his day job.). With myself as defence counsel the Crown Attorney(s) can expect a fight. I believe I am right on the law but there is no telling what a judge will do. As one can appreciate it is very difficult for any lawyer to give good advice to individuals as to which regulation applies and when it ends and other takes over.

Nor may you construe this letter as me providing any "legal advice". I am alerting readers to a problem, the solution to which is currently unknown.

In a recent discussion with the legal advisor to the Chief Firearms Officer for the province of Ontario, she is pretty steadfast in her position that the "transportation" regulation may not apply to firearms in an "unattended vehicle" – it depends on the circumstances and police are being instructed to investigate the circumstances (and lay charges in situations where the police officer believes it appropriate)

Each fact situation may be different. Consider the following for instance

- a competitive shooter, or a hunter is away from home and has a hotel room. Is the firearm more secure in a locked vehicle, unloaded and not visible from the outside (i.e. in basic compliance with the transportation regulation) or in the hotel room where chamber maids etc. have regular access?
- A person who shares accommodation in an apartment (for instance) where others living there, or invited there, or even the landlord or service providers have access as opposed to it being unloaded and locked in a car trunk?
- A farmer leaves his firearm in his vehicle 24/7 for predator control in total compliance with the transportation regulations rather than "temporarily" storing it for predator control under the "storage" regulations where under the later it need not be rendered inoperable (e.g. trigger lock) nor stored in a container or receptacle kept securely locked (etc.)?

Perhaps the answer is to construct a "storage" facility in an automobile that meets the strictest requirements of both the "transportation" and "storage" regulations? Whatever you chose to do and how you chose to do it, just remember that some day you may be required to defend your choice(s) in front of a Judge.

Note: Part of the confusion and uncertainty may emanate from the "restricted" firearm (e.g. handguns) rules where these firearms must be stored at the person's residence and transported between the residence and an approved range and back again usually by the most direct route. There is no such requirement for non-restricted firearms.

I have taken the liberty of transcribing verbatim the two portions of the Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations as they relate to "storage of non-restricted firearms" and "transportation of non-restricted firearms". The full regulation can be found at →

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-98-209/FullText.html>

***Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations, SOR/98-209, (Firearms Act)***

STORAGE OF NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS

5. (1) An individual may store a non-restricted firearm only if
  - (a) it is unloaded;

- (b) it is
- (i) rendered inoperable by means of a secure locking device,
  - (ii) rendered inoperable by the removal of the bolt or bolt-carrier, or
  - (iii) stored in a container, receptacle or room that is kept securely locked and that is constructed so that it cannot readily be broken open or into; and
- (c) it is not readily accessible to ammunition, unless the ammunition is stored, together with or separately from the firearm, in a container or receptacle that is kept securely locked and that is constructed so that it cannot readily be broken open or into.
- (2) Paragraph (1)(b) does not apply to any individual who stores a non-restricted firearm temporarily if the individual reasonably requires it for the control of predators or other animals in a place where it may be discharged in accordance with all applicable Acts of Parliament and of the legislature of a province, regulations made under such Acts, and municipal by-laws.
- (3) Paragraphs (1)(b) and (c) do not apply to an individual who stores a non-restricted firearm in a location that is in a remote wilderness area that is not subject to any visible or otherwise reasonably ascertainable use incompatible with hunting.

#### TRANSPORTATION OF NON-RESTRICTED FIREARMS

10. (1) An individual may transport a non-restricted firearm only if
- (a) except in the case of a muzzle-loading firearm that is being transported between hunting sites, it is unloaded; and
  - (b) in the case of a muzzle-loading firearm that is being transported between hunting sites, its firing cap or flint is removed.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), an individual may transport a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle only if
- (a) when the vehicle is equipped with a trunk or similar compartment that can be securely locked, the non-restricted firearm is in that trunk or compartment and the trunk or compartment is securely locked; and
  - (b) when the vehicle is not equipped with a trunk or similar compartment that can be securely locked, the non-restricted firearm is not visible from outside the vehicle and the vehicle, or the part that contains the non-restricted firearm, is securely locked.
- (3) If, in a remote wilderness area that is not subject to any visible or otherwise reasonably ascertainable use incompatible with hunting, an individual is transporting a non-restricted firearm in an unattended vehicle that is not equipped with a trunk or similar compartment that can be securely locked, and the vehicle or the part of it that contains the non-restricted firearm cannot be securely locked, the individual shall ensure that the non-restricted firearm
- (a) is not visible; and
  - (b) is rendered inoperable by a secure locking device, unless the individual reasonably requires the non-restricted firearm for the control of predators.

A final note: Most people that get charged with careless (unsafe) storage offences voluntarily provide to the police all the circumstances the police need to convict you. It is not an offence to keep your mouth shut – do it.

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## 2012 Registered Shoot Dates

### APRIL

6 – Amherstburg Target Sports – **Good Friday Shoot**  
6 – Hamilton Gun Club – **Good Friday Shoot**  
8 – Oxford Gun Club  
15 – Crumlin Sportsman Association  
**22 – Rockcut Shooting Sports-CANCELLED**  
22 – OtterValley Rod & Gun Club  
29 – West Nipissing (Sturgeon Falls)  
29 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet

### MAY

**6 – Rockcut Shooting Sport-CANCELLED**  
**6 – Crumlin Sportsman Association-CANCELLED**  
6 – Oxford Gun Club  
13 – Pembroke Outdoor Sportsman Club  
13 – Hamilton Gun Club  
19-21 – St Thomas Gun Club – **Federal Shell Shoot**  
20 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club  
**20 – Rockcut Shooting Sports-CANCELLED**  
27 – OtterValley Rod & Gun Club  
27 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet

### JUNE

3 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club  
3 – West Nipissing (Sturgeon Falls)  
3 – Crumlin Sportsman Association  
3 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet  
6 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club (**Big 50**)  
9 & 10 – Algoma (**Marathon**)  
10 – Pembroke Outdoor Sportsman Club  
**10 – Rockcut Shooting Club-CANCELLED**  
10 – Amherstburg Target Sports  
10 – Hamilton Angling & Hunting Association  
13 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club(**Big 50**)  
17 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club  
17 – Oxford Sportsman Club  
24 – Hamilton Gun Club – **Summer Blast**  
20 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club(**Big 50**)  
27 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club(**Big 50**)

### JULY

8 – Amherstburg Target Sports  
8 – Kippen Gun Club  
8 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet  
15 – St Thomas Gun Club  
22 – Oxford Gun Club  
22 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet  
29 – Waterford Gun Club

### AUGUST

3 – Hamilton Gun Club – **Shell Shoot**  
4-6 – **OPTA Provincial Championships**  
12 – Hamilton Angling and Hunting Association  
12 – Oxford Sportsman Club  
19 – Hamilton Gun Club  
26 – Waterford Gun Club

### OCTOBER

7 – Amherstburg Target Sports  
14 – Crumlin Sportsman Association

### SEPTEMBER

1-3 – St Thomas Gun Club – **Team Shoot**  
9 – Quinte Trap & Gun Club  
9 – Toronto International Trap & Skeet  
16 – Hamilton Gun Club  
23 – Waterford Gun Club – **OPTA Sponsor Shoot**  
30 – OtterValley Rod & Gun Club– **OPTA Sponsor Shoot**

**\*\*\*NOTE: Rockcut Sportsman Club has cancelled all Registered shoot dates for this season**  
**: Crumlin Sportsman Association will not be having a shoot as listed for May 6<sup>th</sup>**

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**ATA Alternate Delegate:** Verne Higgs

### **For Your Added Information**

- ❖ If you wish to receive the Newsletter please send your email address to Pam Muma at [ppmuma@rogers.com](mailto:ppmuma@rogers.com)
- ❖ A line bag has been found at the Hamilton Gun Club belonging to "1995 Class B Doubles Champion". If you are the owner of this bag or know who it may belong to, please notify Donna George at the Hamilton Gun Club or Warren McLay.
- ❖ The Federal Shell Shoot being held at the St Thomas Gun Club on May 19-21, 2012 is now listed on Presquad.com for your convenience. Please visit presquad.com and get the squad and position you want without the wait in a line up.