

ATA Article for September 2014

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

The Canadian ATA Championships held in Quebec at the L'Acadie Club was well attended by Canadians from coast to coast and many of our American friends. I was in attendance for the first couple of days helping Quebec delegate Peter Grant and his crew but was on my way to Beijing Sunday morning so could not stay. I am told it was a well-run shoot and there were some good results – none better than our Canadian Singles Champion Matthew Van Haaren, a sub-junior who had the high score (199). Watch for this young man in the future. He has the potential to be one of the greats in our sport.

At the time I write this article, I am scurrying to meet business deadlines as I leave for Glasgow, Scotland tomorrow to join teammates at the Commonwealth Games – a multi discipline, multi-sport games event that occurs every four years. It has been said that the sun never sets on the British Commonwealth of Nations that span the globe. Canada, although an independent nation, is still part of the Commonwealth. Canada's flag-bearer will be our own Susan Natrass, ATA hall of famer, international trap world champion (multiple-times) and the winner of a ton of Commonwealth Games medals. Our multi-discipline shooting team consisting of shotgunners, rifle and handgunners are likely to be not far behind Susan.

As I have often commented, ATA trapshooting is part of a larger contingent of target shooting men, women and youths that should be supporting our common collective interests while celebrating our individual diversity. All the mainstream media often reports on is criminal misuse of firearms. It is hard to give positive coverage to the shooting sports from a biased anti-gun perspective. Anything we can do to advance the positive aspects of firearm ownership and use should always be considered.

Paul Shaw

Ontario Delegate