

ATA article for July 2017

Greetings from Ontario Canada.

My apologies for not having a June delegate article. On that point, incidentally, I have always attempted to include information that highlights accomplishments and initiatives of Ontario shooters and clubs. But in addition to this I try to include information that is informative, often offers challenges, is sometimes controversial and frequently humorous.

All of us strive to hit as many targets per event as we can and virtually all of us can say unequivocally that there is always room for improvement. In other words, trapshooting is a great sport but few should give up their day job. My day job is as a lawyer. Part of what I do involves wills, estates, and estate planning. From my experience, most people who plan their estates ensure that spouses and family are adequately taken care of. Next in line are their favourite charities. [By the way, it is not uncommon for people to leave a nest egg for the care of their pets as well.] It is rare here in Ontario at least for wills to contain a specific or residual bequest for the shooting sports. The ATA has benefitted from some very substantial legacies – for junior shooting programs etc. Most people keep their estate planning plans very confidential but on occasion an individual will reach out and broach the topic of perhaps leaving money for trapshooting. Keep in mind that if there is disposable money available, why wait until the will is probated. Gifts can be made at any time. The ATA can provide a tax receipt which will reduce income tax payable for U.S. residents. There are tax exempt entities in Canada as well. Sponsor a trap field, a shooter's shelter (whatever). From your local club to the ATA itself, all donations help our sport.

Now for a little background context on “estate planning” – the do's and not to do's.

Garfunkel was a single guy, living at home with his father and working in the family business. Both he and his dad were avid trapshooters. He knew that when his elderly and sickly dad passed that he would inherit more than just his dad's trap guns. His dad was financially very well off. Garfunkel wanted two things: to learn to invest his inheritance and find a wife to share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. He timidly approached her and said “I may look like just an ordinary man – but in just a few months my father will die and I'll inherit 30 million dollars. Impressed, the woman took his business card. Two weeks later, she became his step-mother. Women are so much better at estate planning than men.

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