

## ATA Article for September 2015

### Greetings from Ontario, Canada

The Pan Am Games are over. We in Canada had enthusiastic engagement by government, industry and over 23,000 volunteers. Some think this may be a test run for a 2024 Toronto Olympic bid. We certainly have a marvelous multi-discipline shooting facility legacy.

Some of our shooters did well. Lynda Kiejko won two gold medals in women's handgun. Amanda Chudoba won gold in women's trap. As a result of these finishes Canada is assured of two shooters at the Rio Olympics – one in women's handgun and one in women's trap.

The best any of the "guys" were able to muster was a bronze in men's rifle. Curtis Wennberg and Drew Shaw both finaled in men's trap, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively. After that shoot-off Lloyd Woodhouse talked to me. As many know, Lloyd was the U.S. shotgun coach for the best part of three decades and, during his oversight, U.S. won many medals in shotgun events at major tournaments worldwide, including the Olympics. Lloyd was one of the jury members in the clay target events at the Pan Ams. He knew that I was pleased with Curtis and Drew's performance but disappointed for them as they came so close to medalling. He took me aside and told me something that he always talked to his shooting athletes about whether they had a good match or bad – "What did you learn from this experience"? He went on to say that just to get into a trap final is a feat in itself. He, of course, is absolutely right and Drew and Curtis took away a lot of confidence at knowing they had the ability to compete with the best. Had Lloyd talked to me after a disappointing double trap event for me, I suspect, he would have told me something like "don't give up your day job".

For the first time in what seems like forever, I recently got to shoot ATA trap. The Eastern Zone tournament for me was like trying to learn the basics all over. Pete Tsementzis won the Championship singles and runner-up in the Championship doubles. As always Pete is a first class contender and if he took in enough events could easily in my opinion make Men's All American First Team. But when I talk to him about this he casually dismisses it. He has a busy lifestyle with his family and poultry business. Looks like his ducks are all in line and as he says "I don't need any more" "feathers" in my cap. Patrick Lamont from Manitoba is another Canadian that shoots the lights out at many tournaments he attends but seems to have little interest in shooting enough targets at qualifying "point" shoots to be on the All American Team.

On reflection, attaining All American status is probably important if your livelihood is, in part at least, dependent upon demonstrated proficiency at breaking big scores, such as those who give clinics, sell shooting products etc., but of little importance to others. I expect there are a great many shooters across North America that are similar to Pete and Pat – contenders when they choose to attend a shoot, but who have little interest in chasing All American team points.

It never ceases to amaze me at how our laws in Canada seem often to be out of sync with the needs and expectations of the ordinary citizen. But south of our border, I believe, there are even more bizarre laws with inconsistent enforcement. Our U.S./Canada border has increasingly more red tape, delays and "creative interpretation" when it comes to temporary importation of firearms and ammunition by law-abiding folk. But look at the U.S./Mexico border. Illegal immigrants simply cross the border, enter U.S.A.

and if caught and are “deported”, and simply do it all over again, with impunity. Even illegals with a criminal and or violent backgrounds enter the U.S. and, if smart enough, go to a “sanctuary” jurisdiction where the immigration laws are simply not enforced. There are about 110 sanctuary cities and municipalities. These illegals acquire weapons illegally, commit crimes and there is an appalling failure to enforce laws already on the books. That may be why the border and customs agents are so “picky” about everything at the Canada/U.S.A. border because if they were on the Mexico border they would be nothing but a glorified shuttle service returning illegal aliens (if caught) back to Mexico time and time again. It is a U.S. political hot button issue. Politicians don’t want to, or won’t, fix the problem, so it continues. At least Canada has borders we protect with rules and the rules are enforced.

The 2016 U.S. election will be of critical importance to America and Canada will be impacted. A big fix is needed on the job front, on uniform enforcement of laws, the Iran nuclear issue, on the immigration issue, veteran assistance, and the list goes on. There are more potential voters on the “receiving end” of assistance (many legitimate, many abusing the system) than on the “paying end” of the system. The corporate tax rate is too high. The burden of the solutions to all the problem issues continues to fall on the shoulders of fewer and fewer people and corporations that see their votes being eroded by those who live and vote only for today.

A radical fix is needed – now. I personally find Donald Trump arrogant, a braggart, brash and in some cases offensive. But if I was able to vote in the next federal U.S. election for a presidential candidate, I may just hold my nose, cross my fingers and give him the chance to do what he says he can and will do – to make America great again.

One of the best mayors of the Town I live in would never accept a nickel for his election campaign because he didn’t want to be beholden to anyone – he would do what he felt was best for the citizens. Trump would not be in the pocket of special interest groups because he does not need their financial support. He is not a traditional politician skilled in diplomacy (ie. saying one thing and doing another). He is a proven businessman, negotiator and entrepreneur. He minces no words on what the problems facing America are and what the fix(es) are. He doesn’t need the money, fame, and glory that goes with the presidential office – he has most of this already. If not for love of his country, what does he have to gain? If given the chance to be president, what does America in its current sad state have to lose?

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