

ATA article for September 2017

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

By the time you read this article the new target year will have started. Hopefully your accomplishments in 2017 met your expectations and that in the new shooting year you can build upon your successes.

For many of you I need not remind you that there is a drug dependency/addiction epidemic both in Canada and the U.S. In the Eastern Zone we have tragically lost two young shooters within the past year. How deep and wide this problem goes in the ATA is unknown (to me at least). I don't know what if anything the ATA can do to help and I am open to constructive suggestions. The lives of our young people are too precious for us to do nothing if there is something that we could do.

My own son, Drew, has been emotionally devastated by the loss of our young people. He is now 29 years old and told me that when he was younger he would like to think he would not take drugs. Alcohol was cheaper than it is now and (apparently) readily accessible. But he tells me that peer pressure is a huge contributor to young people these days with drugs. The reason he believes he would not have succumbed to drugs is that he wanted to and did make the Canadian (International) trapshooting team and represented Canada in many high profile competitions over the years. He had to be drug free. Anti-doping testing and drug free compliance was a given. This (he said) would have given him a reason to say no (to drugs). Sometimes vulnerable people just need a good reason to say no.

In late June I reached out to OPTA volunteers and others to help run a trapshooting clinic for adult businessmen who had never had an opportunity to try any type of shooting. Our volunteers outnumbered the 15 participants. They had a fabulous experience. Whether they shoot ATA registered targets in the future or not, we made some positive outreach. Thanks to all of our volunteers.

The Ontario Provincial Trapshooting championships concluded on July 23, 2017. It was a 3 point shoot. We had 18 out of province participants: Penn – 1, NY – 3, Oh – 3, PQ - 9, Atl. Prov. – 2. There were a lot of personal firsts including S. Vet. Bill Wylie who ran all of the program singles targets and finished second to Frank Bonaiuto in the Championship event.

Pete Tsementzis won 4 championship trophies (Handicap, Doubles (outlasting myself and two others), H.O.A., H.A.A.). Frank Bonaiuto's son, Vince, shot his first ever 100 straight and won the Jr. event with 199. There were other milestones, too many to include in this article (see official results).

S. Vet. Charlie Boggis won the Canadian handicap championship in Edmonton in late June using his trusty (and old) Model 12 [we don't laugh at his shotgun anymore]. Lloyd Beecraft won numerous events recently in Michigan (one with 100 straight from 27 yards). We have some great shooters in Ontario and developing ones on their way.

On a lighter note, here are "5 Rules for Men to Follow for a Happy Life" that Russel J. Larsen is said to have inscribed on his headstone in Logan, Utah. He died not knowing that he would win a "Coolest Headstone" contest.

- Rule 1 It is important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up and has a job.
- Rule 2 It is important to have a woman who can make you laugh.
- Rule 3 It is important to have a woman who you can trust and doesn't lie to you.
- Rule 4 It is important to have a woman who is a good lover and likes to be with you.
- Rule 5 It is very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like me.

Good Shooting,

Paul Shaw,
Ontario Delegate