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# Kamloops Target Sports Association

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## 1. Executive Report

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By **Jim Fox** (Past President & Director of Public Relations)

We thank all of you who attended the AGM in January. We had a larger attendance than in the past, which indicates to me a couple of things. One, people are more interested in our organization and want to be more involved, or two, the impending federal election and the Liberal proposed handgun ban was of interest to many members. At any rate, it was great to see a larger showing at our AGM.

Following the election of the Board of Directors, the Board met and agreed to the "positions" or "portfolio" in which they would be responsible. The list of your new executive is given in the next section of this newsletter.

The executive now has started working on many projects to make YOUR CLUB a better place. Upgrades to the Ranges continue to be a priority. The last newsletter reported that there is now a "club house" at the long range. This was a great accomplishment; however, the executive has already received some disturbing reports... One of the doors is no longer on it's hinges. It is unknown if this was done by vandals or by club members, but it is really disturbing to see this before we even have the building functional. This is a lot of work to be done on the building before we can say it is useable. Mark Anderson will be organizing the work on this in the spring.

Other upgrades the executive are considering are: 1) additional covered firing points at the short range; 2) a "scoring building" for upcoming events; and 3) fencing to keep cows from disturbing the facilities at the short range. These are needed for the upcoming BC Games in July 2006.

The executive continues to receive reports that members are not leaving the facilities the way they find them. On numerous occasions, target backers are set down for some reason, but people fail to set them back up. Please leave the range the way you found it.

In all, I think the executive chosen by the membership is a good one and will work well together. We want to make sure we have a good facilities and are striving to be the best in the province. This will only come with hard work from all members, so PLEASE, when asked to help at the spring clean up day, take some time to help YOUR CLUB. The less help you provide will be directly related to the increase in your membership dues. We are trying to keep the dues to a minimum, but if we have to hire contractors to do the work, your costs will have to go up.

## 2. Your New 2006 Executive

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A new executive was elected at the AGM January 15, 2006 at the Kamloops Curling Club. Please contact any of the club executives at [info@ktsa.ca](mailto:info@ktsa.ca).

### OFFICERS:

Sam Bruno	President
Jim Sloper	Vice President
Jim Fox	Past President
Ron Fraser	Treasurer
Will Robins	Secretary

### DIRECTORS:

Sam Bruno	New Member Orientation
Jim Sloper	Cowboy Action
Jim Fox	Public Relations
Art Bourne	Memberships
Dan Hampton	Facilities
Ed Newberry	Recreational Shooting
Norm McRae	Handgun
Rob Hetherington	RFOBC & Alt. Programs
Paul Reibin	Phoning Committee
Grant Klein	Junior Program
Rod Olsen	Interclub Relations
Mitch Kendall	At Large
Mark Anderson	Centerfire Rifle
Diana Thompson	Small Bore Rifle

### APPOINTMENTS:

Don Pippolo	Chief Range Office
Ken Koop	Range Schedule/Bookings
Jim Thrower	Newsletter & Website
Pat Landals	Indoor Range Security

## 3. BC Games Coming to Kamloops

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By **Jim Fox** (Past President)

The 2006 BC Summer Games are coming to Kamloops! The KTSA has been selected at the host for the Smallbore Rifle and the Handgun events on July 27-30. A small but active group has volunteered many hours to make this happen and there are many more hours to be put in.

The Sport Chairs for Handgun are Ed Newberry and Norm McRae, and for Rifle are Dan Hampton and Rolf Demale. The BC Target Sports Association, Provincial Sport Advisor, is Jim Fox. Jim's role is to provide technical support to the KTSA to make the facility ready for the BC Games.

These people have been working with the City of Kamloops to secure funding and supplies to upgrade the Short Range. Upgrades required are additional firing points and a scoring building. This is an honour to be selected to host the BC Games and as a result we will have a top-notch facility for future use.

Howere, there is much work to do! Painting, replacing plywood on firing points, fencing, new construction, moving dirt, and the list goes on! Please help out when asked. It is an opportunity to get involved in YOUR CLUB. During the Games, there will also a need for more volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the

City of Kamloops, Dan Hampton (376-1777), or Ed Newberry (577-3364). **This is our time to shine !!!**

Let's do it up right.

## 4. Update from Alysia Hampton

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**By Alysia Hampton (Member)**

Hello KTSA Members - I would like to give a big THANK YOU to the KTSA and everyone who has supported me on my journey to the 2008 Olympics.

For those of you who don't know me, I am Alysia Hampton and I compete in Air Rifle (10 m) and .22 Ladies Sport Rifle (50 m). In August 2005, I earned 3 spots on the 2006 Canadian National Team: 1 in Air Rifle, 1 in .22 Ladies Sport Rifle – Prone, and 1 in .22 Ladies Sport Rifle 3 Position. This is the third year in a row that I have been on the National Team and have been working hard to earn the right to represent Canada at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China. In March 2005, I competed in Melbourne, Australia at the Championships of the Commonwealth and attained the minimum score (at least 375/400) to qualify for the Olympics.

To better prepare for future events (eg Pan Am Games, World Championships, and Olympics), I will be traveling to Munich, Germany this May to compete at a World Cup Event. These World Cup Events are held periodically (there are 5 this year) around the world, which give athletes an opportunity to compete at the world-level in preparation for Olympic type events.

In addition to the World Cup, I will attend the Canadian National Championships in Beachburg, Ontario this August. After that, I plan to attend other World Cup Events and the Pan American Games in 2007. Without your support, it would be very difficult for me to attend these matches and live my dream. I thank you again. Good shooting!

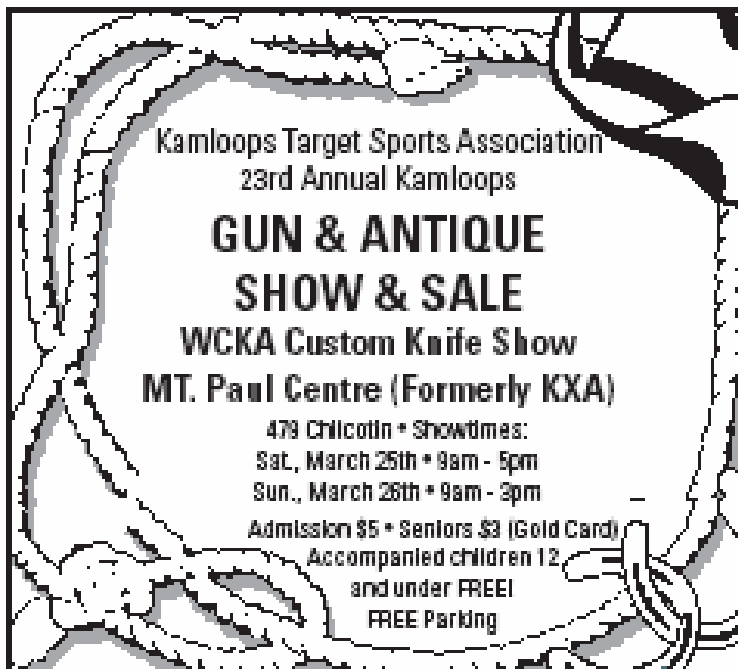
## 5. Junior Report

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**By Grant Klein (Director)**

Once again, this past winter has been very busy for the Junior Program. So busy in fact, another day (Monday night) was added to the air rifle program, as there are more shooters than positions on the firing line, and not enough rifles for everyone. The .22 session on Friday nights is doing very well and is becoming more popular. Kids across the city are discovering the fun of target sports.

This year is going to be hectic for our Juniors. It all started with four Juniors attending the Canada



Winter Games training camp at the Sapperton Fish & Game Club on Feb. 11 and 12. Today our air Juniors are training hard for the BC Air Gun Championships in Richmond on March 3 to 5. As many as 11 of our Juniors may attend this event. We believe this is the biggest team KTSA has ever sent to the Spring Air.

Next is the BC Provincials for Smallbore on June 2 to 4 at the North Saanich range on Vancouver

Island. We are hoping for a great turnout to this yearly event.

After the BC Provincials, the Juniors will be working hard to earn spots on the Zone 2 BC Summer Games team. This year Kamloops plays host to the Games on July 27 to 30. I hope you all come to watch and support our kids who make the team, as Zone 2 is the defending team Gold Medal winner.

Following the BC Summer Games is the National Smallbore Championships in Beachburg, Ontario. This takes place on Aug.19 to 27. Those wishing to

compete will be working hard through August in hopes of winning spots on Canada's National team.

Our volunteer coaches have done an outstanding job in preparing our Juniors for this spring and summer events. I wish them all well and hope the best for each and every one.

As spring approaches, our outdoor ranges need a facelift. Let's all do our part in helping to clean and fix them up and to keep them in good working order, so when the BC Games arrive we can all be proud of what KTSA has to offer BC's finest young shooting athletes.

## 6. Facilities Report

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By Dan Hampton (Director)

As you can tell by the title, my hat has changed! This is largely due to Kamloops hosting the BC SUMMER GAMES and we (the KTSA) are supplying the Smallbore venue. Because our facility will be in the public view, besides our usual spring cleanup, we will have to maintain a clean and appealing facility leading up to the Games (July 27-30, 2006).

Much help will be needed to provide a quality shooting and full games experience for the young athletes. I urge one-and-all to throw in a hand to help pull this off.

Having personally attended the last two Summer Games, one Winter Games, and numerous other events ranging from National to Provincial to Regional down to Local and Fun Matches, the dedication of a few pulling things together never ceases to amaze me – mostly for the joy of seeing their hard work reflected in the smiling faces of the athletes! There is always room for more to help.

**Please respond, I guarantee you will grow from it!**

On a darker side, sometime this winter someone took it upon themselves to do a penetration test through the gussets of our new roof at the Short Range. As one of a handful of members who solicited materials, and supplied tools and labour to complete this project, I wish to CONDEMN this person and their activities. Also, I invite all members to police their activities at **YOUR CLUB** facilities. **REMEMBER THE CLUB IS A REFLECTION OF YOU, MAKE IT A GOOD ONE!**



From inside the covered area at the long range.

## 7. A New 50-50 League

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By **Mark Anderson** (Director)

The KTSA will be running a new 50-50 league this summer. This is a .22 rimfire benchrest competition that contests a competitor's shooting skills from the bench at 50 m or 50 yds (hence the term "50-50").

You fire on a target that has three sighting rings and 25 individual scoring rings. You have 30 minutes to fire unlimited sighters and 25 rounds on score. You can only fire one round per scoring ring.

The target is very demanding and your rifle must be capable of shooting 0.500 inch groups all day long! You can shoot as many sighting shots as you wish any time during the match; however, any sighting shots touching a scoring ring will count as a score.

This is "the" Bench Rest shooting of Rimfire rifles – and is the most demanding shooting that I have ever done! (Very humbling.)

There are two classes of rifles - Sorting and Unlimited. You may shoot your sporting rifle in the unlimited class if you wish. We are making up new target stands to accommodate these matches and we will fire eight shooters at a time.

The league will commence after daylight saving time starts, and will begin at 5:00 pm and run until dark. We will shoot once a month – the day yet to be determined. Shooters will be required to post at least 6 shoots to qualify and the top 6 scores posted throughout the year will count. Matches will be held in Sporter class (8 1/2 lbs & 6x scope) and Unlimited class. Awards presented to winners.

Please contact Don Morphy at 376-7071 or Mark Anderson at 554-3425 for further information. Additional information on this type of shooting can be found at [www.ir5050.com](http://www.ir5050.com).

## 8. Cowboy Action Shooting

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By **Jim Sloper** (Vice President)

We continue to have an active group of Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) shooters. Winter indoor shooting has been poorly attended, but expectations are for better turnout as soon as the outdoor practice sessions begin. That will be as soon as Daylight Savings Time starts, and will be Thursday evenings, from 6:30 pm to dark.

Several of our members did very well at various competitions this past year, with participants traveling to various parts of Canada and the USA.

The top shooter for the Canadian SASS Regional



Championships held in Kelowna last fall was "Turkey Will", AKA Doug Berkey. Way to go Doug!

Several members competed in the World Championships at End of Trail, in New Mexico last year, and several will be going again this year.

Two of our members are now certified as RO II (Level 2 Range Officers), which is the highest rating in SASS at the present.

An introductory to CAS will be held at the Short Range, Saturday, June 03, 2006 at 9:00 am. This will be one-on-one coaching with "loaner" firearms available, so come out and give it a try!

But be warned, **THIS COULD BE ADDICTIVE!**

## 9. The Heffley Creek Club – What’s it all about

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By **Doug Berkey** (President, Heffley Creek Club)

The majority of the active Heffley Creek Club members spend most of their shooting time on the *Black Powder Trail* or in *Cowboy Town* up in Palmer’s Gulch. These ranges are places where *stages* are played-out using old-style 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century firearms in competitive shooting scenarios. To top-off the fantasy, the wearing of period correct clothing is a must.

These two disciplines bring folks back to a simpler and very intriguing time in history and it’s kinda’ cool! But make no mistake, beneath the old fashion clothes, and behind the old firearms, competitive hearts abound. To receive bragging rights and win prizes, it always comes down to who can shoot the fastest and straightest, who can throw a knife or axe the best, or who dresses the best!

Heffley Creek also has an excellent shotgun facility with a high tower, trap house, and lots of room for movement with manual throwers. Take out your guns and come up on any Saturday morning around 10:00 am and check things out. We expect this discipline to grow and we need your support!

This year a concrete slab will be pored at the pistol shed so it will be much easier and cleaner to use. A tremendous amount of work was done on the rifle shed last year and it is now a very classy facility. Our organizers are taking a break from the large Canadian and Provincial championship matches for

this year, but they will resume next year; however, there are still 4 great matches scheduled this year.

For those who are not aware the Heffley Range, for large functions, has over 100 campsites, picnic tables, lots of firewood, a large covered common area, water and hot showers. So check out the schedule and make time to come out!

If you require more information, please contact any of the following club executives.

President	Keith Bentley 578-2071
Vice President	Ron Gabler 578-7678
Secretary	Doug Berkey 579-5819
Treasurer	Garry Gregson 828-1204

Black Powder	Norval Card 578-7456
	Budge Feller 578-7135
	Jack Walton 578-8187

Rifle	Alec Farquharson 376-3596
	Bob Brown 374-6705

Pistol	Dale Searle 672-5640
	Rick Totten 374-9899
	Ed Nagy 677-4216

Western / Cowboy	Hans Signer 578-8762
	Jim Sloper 573-2885

Trap	Al MacLaurin 578-7748
	Dan Dunbar 376-1277

### **KAMLOOPS TRAP & SKEET CLUB**

We are open for practice Sunday's at 10 am until May 2, then change to Tuesday starting at 5 pm.

Sporting Clay shoot on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, Mar. 26. and Apr. 9th.

Trap registered shoots on Apr 8<sup>th</sup> and May 12, 13, and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Over \$5,300 to win on special 50's in Handicap.

For more info call 372-5553.

Good Shooting and hope to see you on the range - Don Reynolds, President.

## 10. 2006 Event Schedule

This is the current schedule for the upcoming season. This includes KTSA events and others of general interest to our members. This schedule is posted on the website ([www.ktsa.ca](http://www.ktsa.ca)) and will be updated there as it changes during the season. Contacts for many of these events are given at the end of this table.

Date	Event	Location
<b>March</b>		
19	Cowboy & Black Powder	Heffley Creek
23-24	High Power Rifle Silhouette	KTSA Long Range
26	Small Bore Rifle Silhouette	Heffley Creek
<b>April</b>		
2	1st Annual 50-50 .22 Rifle Match	KTSA Long Range
9	50-50 .22 Rifle Match	Heffley Creek
21-23	Spring Fling Black Powder Match	Heffley Creek
22	L.M. Regional ISSF 300 m	Mission Rod & Gun Range
22-23	Kamloops Regional ISSF 300 m UIT	KTSA Long Range
22-23	Black Powder and Cowboy Rust Remover	Heffley Creek
24-29	RCMP Qualifications	Heffley Creek Pistol Range
29-30	APRA opening shoot	Homestead Range, AB
30	2nd Annual Prairie Dog Shoot	KTSA Long Range
<b>May</b>		
1-31	Heffley Creek Range Closed for Cows Grazing	Heffley Creek
7	400 m HRRC Championships	Homestead Range, AB
7	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd	Turtle Valley
7	Work-Bee at the Heffley Creek Range	Heffley Creek
11-14	High Power Rifle Silhouette	KTSA Long Range
13	Ladies Day Fun Shoot (TBC)	KTSA Long Range
13-14	BC ISSF 300 m	Mission Rod & Gun Range
20-21	APRA Victoria Day Match	Homestead Range, AB
27	KTSA Service Pistol	KTSA Short Range
27-28	Vancouver Island Long Range Fullbore Rifle	Nanaimo
28	KTSA Service Rifle	KTSA Long Range
28	BC Games Zone 2 Smallbore Rifle Trials	KTSA Short Range
<b>June</b>		
2	BCRA Service Pistol Championships	Vokes Military Range
3	Introduction to Cowboy Action Shooting	KTSA Short Range
3-4	BCRA Service Rifle Championships	Vokes Military Range
3-4	Homestead Rifle Match Long Range	Homestead Range, AB
4	LMR Regional ISSF 300 m	Mission Rod & Gun Range
7-11	Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Match	Heffley Creek
11	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd	Turtle Valley
17	KTSA Tactical Rifle Match	KTSA Long Range
17-18	High Power Rifle Silhouette	Heffley Creek
17-18	BC High Power Rifle Championships	Vokes Military Range
17-18	500 m HRRC Championships	Homestead Range, AB
24-25	BCRA Tactical Rifle Match	Vokes Military Range
28 - Jul 4	Palmer's Gulch Cowboy Match	Heffley Creek
<b>July</b>		
1-2	APRA Canada Day Rifle Match	Homestead Range, AB
7-9	SPRA Provincial Championships	Nokomis Range
8-9	Ron March Challenge Match, 300 m	KTSA Long Range
8-9	Ron March Challenge Match, 1000 yd	Turtle Valley

Date	Event	Location
12	APRA Provincial ISSF 300 m	Homestead Range, AB
15-16	APRA Provincial Target Rifle Championships	Homestead Range, AB
22-23	600 m HRRC Championships	Homestead Range, AB
23	Small Bore Rifle	Heffley Creek
27-30	BC Summer Games	KTSA Short Range
<b>August</b>		
4-7	BC Target Rifle & F-class Championships	Vokes Military Range
12-13	800 m HRRC Championships	Homestead Range, AB
13	Pistol Fun shoot	Heffley Creek
13	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd	Turtle Valley
18-27	DCRA National Matches	Connaught, Ontario
19-20	DCRA Alternate Match	Homestead Range, AB
28-30	DCRA Open F-class Championships	Homestead Range, AB
24 - Sep 4	Black Powder "Rendevous"	Heffley Creek
<b>September</b>		
2-4	Prairie Prov. Provincial Rifle Assoc. Championships	Nokomis Range
3	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd	Turtle Valley
8-10	Navy Shoot & Butchart Team Match	Nanaimo
11-15	RCMP Qualifications at the Pistol Range	Heffley Creek
16-17	Black Powder & Cowboy Fall Windup	Heffley Creek
16-17	Alberta Palma Match	Homestead Range, AB
23-24	900 m HRRC Championships	Homestead Range, AB
30 - Oct 1	Frosty Farky 300 m UIT	KTSA Long Range
<b>October</b>		
7-8	Frost on the Pumpkin Match	Homestead Range, AB
8	1st Annual 50-50 .22Rifle Match	KTSA Long Range
15	Black Powder & Cowboy Match	Heffley Creek
15	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd (windup & BBQ)	Turtle Valley
22	Shotgun Funshoot	Heffley Creek
<b>November</b>		
5	Barrel Stretchers 1000 yd (weather permitting)	Turtle Valley
19	Black Powder & Cowboy Sun. Sporting Clays	Heffley Creek

We've made every effort to ensure the accuracy of these shoots and dates; however, shooters are encouraged to contact match directors to confirm times, dates, and locations.

**KTSA:**

Silhouette	Gary Koop	250 851-4450	
High Power Rifle	Mark Anderson	250 554-3425	email: powderkeg@shaw.ca
Service & Tactical	Don Pippolo	250 374-1211	
Cowboy Action	Jim Sloper	250 573-2885	

**Heffley Creek Club:**

Cowboy Action	Doug Berkey	250 579-5819
Black Powder	Don Morphy	250 376-7071

**Other:**

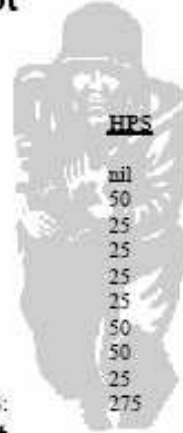
Vokes Military Range	Bob Pitcairn	604 793-0300
Homestead Range:	Jay Winfield	403 932-3574

# 11. Outdoor Military Shoots

## Outdoor Military Service Pistol Shoot

**Date:** 27 May 06 **@50m Outdoor Range**  
**Time:** Registration 0900 Shooting Begins 1000!  
**Course of Fire:** Two Hand hold except where specified! 65 Rds required

Detail	Tgt	Pos'n	Dist	Time	Rds	HPS
Sight-in	Fig 12	Stand	25M	5 Min	2x5	nil
Match 1	Fig 11	Kneel	35 to 25 M	40 sec	2x5	50
Match 2	Fig 11	Prone	35M	45 sec	1x5	25
	Fig 11	Sit	35M	30 sec	1x5	25
Match 3	Fig 11	Prone	45 to 35 M	20 sec	1x5	25
	Fig 11	Kneel	35 to 25 M	20 sec	1x5	25
	Fig 11	Stand	25 to 15 M	20 sec (1 hand Weak)	1x10	50
Match 4	Fig 11	Kneel	25 M	20 sec	2x5	50
	Fig 12	Stand	15 M	10 sec (1 hand Strong)	1x5	25
<b>TOTAL HPS:</b>						<b>275</b>



## Outdoor Military Service Rifle Shoot

**Date:** 28 May 06 **@ 300m Range**  
**Time:** Registration 0900 Shooting Begins 1000!  
**Course of Fire:** 66rds required Any Service Rifle

200m	APPLICATION	2 Sighters and 7 rds to score on a fig 12C on 4ft Frame.	HPS 35
200m	SNAP	2 Sighters and 10 on score fired on a fig 12 on a stick, 1 shot per 5 sec exposure from kneeling posn.	HPS 50
200m	RAPID	2 Sighters and 10 on score After Sighters, Start in Alert posn and fire 10 shots in 30 Sec exposure from sitting position. Bolt actions may stay in Sitting after sighters.	HPS 50
300m	APPLICATION	2 Sighters and 7 rds to score on a fig 12 on 4ft Frame.	HPS 35
300m	SNAP	2 Sighters and 10 on score fired on fig 12 on a stick, 1 shot per 5 sec exposure from prone posn.	HPS 50
300m	RAPID	2 Sighters and 10 on score After Sighters, Start in Alert posn and fire 10 shots in 30 Sec exposure from prone position. Bolt actions may stay in Prone after sighters.	HPS 50
<b>TOTAL HPS :</b>			<b>270</b>

## Precision (Sniper) Rifle Shoot

For the politically Incorrect

**Date:** 17 Jun 06 **@ 300m Range**  
**Time:** Registration 0800 Shooting Begins 0900!  
**Course of Fire:** 56 rds no Sighters!

50m	SNAP	No Sighters and 6 rds to score on a Bad guy tgt on a stick.	HPS 60 6v
75m	SNAP	10 on score fired on two Perps and a Hostage tgt. 1 shot per 5 sec exposure from back of chair.	HPS 50 10v
75m	SNAP	10 on score 1 shot per 5 sec exposure from sitting or kneeling on fig 14 Hung head.	HPS 50 10v
125m	SNAP	Fired from a roof top 10 rds to score on Two hostage and one Perp tgt on 4ft Frame.	HPS 50 10v
200m	MOVER	10 on score fired on fig 20 on a stick, 1 shot per 8 ft movement from prone posn.	HPS 50 10v
200m	SHOOT NO SHOOT	10 on score on a 12c tgt. Start prone posn and fire 10 shots at 15 exposures... decision required! - no shoot identified specially!	HPS 50 10v
<b>TOTAL HPS :</b>			<b>310 56v</b>



Dust off your Military Rifles and Pistols and come out and win some prizes

For Information contact the PowderKeg 554-3425 – There will be sign up sheets there!

## 12. Food For Thought

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### Gun control's unlikely new enemy

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**Copied from the National Post**

Feb. 13, 2006 - By Lorne Gunter

Two weeks ago, the very anti-gun, pro-gun-registry Toronto Star probably did more than any other media outlet to undermine the recent call by the Ontario provincial government for a ban on all handguns in the province. On Jan. 28, the Star ran a map of southern Ontario and cottage country showing the number of legal firearms per district.

Using statistics obtained from the federal firearms registry, the paper showed its readers that in the areas around the town of Orillia, there have been up to 47 firearms licences issued for every 100 households -- the highest rate in the province. Large numbers of licences also have been granted around Durham and Orangeville, Cambridge and Peterborough.

Indeed, that swath of Ontario from Lake Huron in the west to Georgian Bay in the north, around Lake Simcoe through Hastings to Prince Edward County, is veritably bristling with guns.

Niagara County, too, and Simcoe, Oxford and Wellington – guns everywhere.

Most districts nearer Toronto have between four and 12 registered gun owners per 100 homes. Much of the 905 area has between two and six.

But right down in the centre of Toronto, standing out like a strobe light, were several neighbourhoods with two or fewer firearms licences per 100 households. From Pearson International Airport to the Don Valley Parkway, and between the 407 and the Lake, Ontario is nearly gun-free, according to the Star.

But of course, that is exactly where most gun crimes take place. The conclusion to be drawn from the Star's graphic is obvious: The most sensational shootings and highest number of gun murders in Ontario occur within the area that already has by far the lowest levels of legal firearm ownership.

With this one map, the Star unwittingly proved correct those who argue that a ban on all legal handguns will do nothing to reduce gun crime in Toronto. It also debunked all those, such as the Ontario government, the Liberal Party of Canada and the Star itself, who have made a ban the lynchpin of their crime-reduction strategies.

The simple, inescapable truth is that most firearms crimes being committed in Ontario are not being

committed with legal guns, so no ban on legal guns -- whether handguns or shotguns and rifles -- is going to have any impact on crime rates.

Most gun crimes are not being committed by gun owners licensed under Ottawa's registry scheme. So no campaign to make licensed owners surrender their firearms in a mass confiscation is going to have any impact either.

Indeed, from a statistical point of view, a ban on handguns would be the least likely ban to have any appreciable effect.

Canada's law-abiding gun owners, collectors, hunters and sport shooters own approximately nine "long guns" -- hunting rifles or shotguns -- for every one handgun. In Ontario, the federal registry knows of 1,839,155 long guns, but just 215,372 handguns, and most of both types of these legal guns are not in Toronto.

If fewer than two in 100 Toronto households contain registered guns, then likely fewer than two in 1,000 contain registered handguns. The Ontario government could send the police to every home in T.O. to collect every pistol and revolver identified by Ottawa's databanks and still seize only a tiny number of handguns.

And those wouldn't be the handguns being used on the streets anyway.

After the shooting of more than a dozen pupils at Scotland's Dunblane Primary School in March, 1996, the British government banned private ownership of all handguns.

The judge who investigated the causes of the massacre recommended against such a ban, but because mass murderer Thomas Hamilton had used several pistols in the commission of his crime, the government in London bulled ahead anyway. It wanted to send a message that it was doing something.

In the decade before the ban, gun violence in Britain rose 12%. In the decade since, it has risen 64%.

Handguns are technically banned from New York, Washington D.C. and Chicago, too. But not until those cities ramped up police patrols and began getting tough on criminals did any of them experience drops in gun crime.

Banning legal handguns is nothing more than a victory for symbolism over substance, for activity over achievement.