

Sport Shooting & Gun Shows



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

It's important for everyone to know that Gun Shows are not about AK 47;s and Bazookas. Gun Shows are a great community gathering where a wide variety of collectibles are on display for trade & sale. Visit the Gun Show when it comes to your community. See for yourself. Enjoy!

Though these hobbies are not pursued as frequently as I would like, I am a sometimes hunter, shooter and regular collector. I am also one of those who has attended many gun shows at the Edmonton Sportex, to further my hobbies. I would be less than forthright if I did not mention that my attendance at the gun shows also has a political dimension, based on my ongoing objections to the wasteful, billion dollar duck hunter shotgun registry fiasco. Of course, handguns have always been registered and there is virtually unanimous agreement that they still should be. Part of my gun collection includes an eight piece set of never fired,

Winchester Commemorative octagonal-barrelled rifles, each massive in weight and length. The absurdity of the nearly two billion dollars spent so far with the objective of registering these show pieces, under the guise of public safety, becomes obvious.

Due to the vast proliferation in rural Canada of the use of long guns, it is simply not feasible or practical to register each and every one of the fifteen million that are out there. While all of the rifles and shotguns at the gun show are registered, ask anyone in the know and they will tell you that even spending many billions more will still not result in the registration of more than half of

those in private hands. It's better to spend the shotgun registration dollars on public safety awareness and to increase enforcement, prosecution and penalties for those who use firearms



Edmonton Centre Conservative Candidate Laurie Hawn and Edmonton East Member of Parliament Peter Goldring attend the gun show at Edmonton's Sportex Building giving support to repealing Bill C-68.



illegally while committing crimes, as well as for other important purposes, such as health care.

My main purpose in attending the gun shows is to linger, as long as I can, amidst the vast array of “toys” to add to my collection and to swap hunting and shooting stories, all true, with the many good folks at the booths or in general attendance. While not being nearly as great as being out on a cut line in a northern bush on a moose hunt, it never ceases to pique my interest in finding one more “must have” collectible at a gun show.

Gun shows are not about AK-47s and other assault paraphernalia. In fact, while a few military-type guns are there, 99% of a gun show is about everything from wonderful, hand-made knives, black powder kit of all forms and, yes, a lot of hunting rifles and shotguns. There also are tables and tables of military memorabilia, including medals, historical uniforms and books. I also try to find the time to stop at the National Firearms Association table, where I am able to find the latest literature and obtain the latest advice on safe gun storage and training. The booth operators are frequently

from all parts of Canada, and regularly travel on a “gun show” circuit. There is a sense of camaraderie among long-time acquaintances and friends.

I encourage you to attend a gun show soon. I’m sure that you will find something of interest and will have good conversation concerning your shooting hobby or sport. Your attendance at a gun show might well do for

you what it does for me, which is to bring back fond memories, causing you to look forward to at least getting out to a shooting range in warm weather, for good shooting and to taste the cordite and powder in the air.



Western Standard representative Matthew Johnston shaking hands with Member of Parliament Peter Goldring and Conservative Candidate for Edmonton Centre Laurie Hawn

Like many others, I was fortunate to have been brought up on a farm where,

as a youngster, I was taught firearms safety and safe shooting, primarily for the purpose of rodent and animal control, rather than as a recreational hobby. Groundhogs dig holes that cattle can step into and break a leg. Porcupines can get into barns, with cows being driven wild and lost due to quills in their noses. Fox will decimate your chicken flock, if you let them. In addition, sick cows must be put down quickly. On the



farm, rifles and shotguns are tools of the trade. As a result of my early experiences with them, I have grown to appreciate firearms as also being beautiful, crafted art forms, combining the best in rare furniture woodwork, with exquisitely machined and finished metalwork, all in a utilitarian package.

Attending a gun show brings back good memories for me. I hope that you will attend one in your area soon.

Rifle Registration And Handgun Registration: Separating the Issues

Obviously I have reservations concerning the new rifle registration system—reservations that are shared by many persons, regardless of whether they personally own guns or not. It is important to realise that handguns have been registered for over 50 years. The debate is largely whether this registration should be extended to 15 million rifles and shotguns (some say 25 million) and whether this is possible to do.

Recent developments include clear evidence that the government has seriously underestimated the costs and the effectiveness of the new rifle registry

system. The whole system becomes a costly infringement on individual liberty and an ineffective means of reducing death and injury from firearms.

Most Canadians support any action by government that would successfully prevent the distribution of firearms to criminals. Similarly, most Canadians support any action by government that would successfully prevent the use of fire-

arms in the commission of criminal acts. What many people object to is a registration system that criminalizes those who legally own rifles and shotguns, while the government does little to punish those who possess & use handguns illegally in the commission of crimes.



Conservative Member of Parliament Peter Goldring with Canadians protesting Bill C 68, the wasteful shotgun registry bill on Parliament Hill

Firearms are an essential component to life in many rural areas--be it in terms of hunting, pest control or property protection from 'wild mammals' of all types. These are often areas where "911" is, at best, a county road number, rather than an emergency telephone number. Many in urban areas also own guns reflecting their sporting interests, interests in military history or simply for personal collection. Chance are good that many urban collectors were introduced to firearms un-

der the tutelage of their Dads at a fairly young age. An age and era when hunting and fishing were considered to be healthy, desirable sports by most Canadians.

The rifle registration hyperbole has been brought about largely by the fear of urbanites about a largely rural tool. The new rifle registry appears to be associated with political weaknesses: let's "register all guns", and let us not ask whether it is necessary, or, even possible to do so. We have yet to see an increased social benefit from the government's new rifle registry. Government intervention in any area should demonstrate that social welfare will

be enhanced. So far, the new rifle registry has only increased hostilities between opposing camps.

Rifles and shotguns are not the guns criminals prefer and have been far too widely distributed to ever be effectively registered. Only an urbanite dreaming in Technicolor would think it was possible to register all of Canada's rifles and shotguns. A law that is doomed to failure should never have been brought to life

Update: The federal government's rifle registry is out of control. It was supposed to cost 2 Million dollars, but will now cost Canadians nearly \$2 Billion. The Auditor General described the outrageous mismanagement of the gun registry as an "inexcusable failure." All this for a system that will not make our streets any safer! By comparison the wasted \$2 Billion (Handguns were registered) could have funded the entire Edmonton Police Force for more the 14 years!

<p>9111 - 118th Avenue Edmonton, AB T5B 0T9 (780) 495-3261 Fax: 495-5142</p>	<p>Web Site: www.petergoldring.ca E-mail: goldrp1@parl.gc.ca</p>	<p>411 Justice Bldg. Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 (613) 992-3821 Fax: 992-6898</p>
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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment and fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.



<p style="text-align: center;">Your Opinion Matters...</p> <p>Question #1 Should the rifle registry be scrapped? (Handguns are already registered)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p>Question #2 Is the Conservative Party on the right track with this issue?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p>Comments: _____ _____ _____</p>	<p>Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>No Postage Required</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Peter Goldring Member of Parliament Edmonton Centre-East House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</p> </div>
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