

WILLIAMS LAKE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

December 2007

Sportsmen's Wildlife Dinner - February 2, 2008

The annual Sportsmen's Wildlife Dinner is scheduled for Saturday—**February 2, 2008** at the Bond Lake Clubhouse.

6:00 pm - Cocktails

6:30 pm - Dinner

Tickets on sale at Chilcotin Guns; Lake City Ford or by calling 398-0368. Due to rising cost of catering, the price of tickets had to be raised for the first time in over 8 years.

Individuals: \$30.00

Couples: \$55.00

Youth: \$15.00 (16 and under)

- Tickets limited, so buy early

Win a Weatherby Vanguard Synthetic in 300 WSM - Winner must be the holder of a valid Firearm's Licence.



Meat donations are being solicited and should be dropped off at Chilcotin Guns. Please label as to the game species. Meat must be properly cut and identified.

Open bar, lots of prizes, Fish & Wildlife trophies.

Bring your funny hunting stories and be ready to nominate your hunting or fishing friend for the Rear-ender Award.



Sportsmen's Association Annual General Meeting

Date: January 21, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Clubhouse

On the agenda to be dealt with is the election of the 2008 executive, this will be followed by reports from the various committees. Your club has not been very active this past year due to the lack of member's interest. Please understand that with growing pressures under the firearm's act

and hunting regulations restrictions always being proposed by such groups as the Cariboo Chilcotin Guide Outfitters, that your rights are in jeopardy of being taken away forever. Another issue is the decline in hunter numbers. Taken all together as well as other pressures, your club can't succeed from your apathy. In other words, no one is going to rescue your rights if you sit and do nothing. There will be no reason to complain when it's all gone. You might want to take up knitting as a substitute. Also, the club needs help to maintain its facilities to the condition expected by members.

Inside this issue:

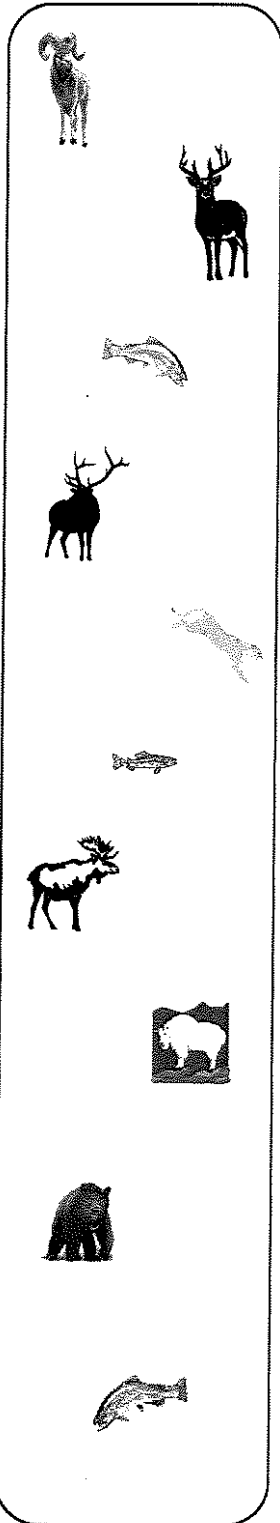
2008 Wild Game Trophies	2
C.O.R.E. / FIREARMS Safety Training	2
Firearms Marking Regulations Deferred	2
Out of Unenforceable Laws	3
Decriminalization of Firearms Act	3
Kelowna Poacher Fined	4

Special points of interest:

- **Wildlife Banquet - February 2, 2008**
- **CLUB AGM January 21, 2008**
- **Your game and fish trophies entries must be submitted no later than December 31, 2007 at 12:00 am**



2008 Wildlife Game Trophies



DEADLINE WILD GAME TROPHY ENTRIES IS

Midnight - December 31

Gerry Lucas - 392-2706

Glen Kuenzl - 398-8506

Don't forget there is a prize draw for all entrants, whether you are trophy winner or not.

Nominations:

Nominations for Directors and Executive of the club are being sought. If you would like to serve the club, contact Doug Hill at 392-7133 or David Keely at 398-7767.

Without Directors and Executive the club cannot provide a shooting facility for archers or firearms shooters, and it cannot represent you on regional fish or wildlife committees.

2008 BCWF Convention Announced

The Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club and BCWF Region 3 will be hosting the BCWF annual convention on April 9th to 12th in Salmon Arm. If you are interesting in attending to represent the WLSA or if you know of a youth delegate to represent the youth in our region, contact Jacques at 398-0368.

Firearms Marking Regulations Deferred to December 1, 2009

The following announcement has been made by the government regarding the firearms marking proposal.

Firearms Marking Regulations Due to ongoing industry concerns the Firearms Marking Regulations will now be deferred to December 1, 2009.

Upon consultation with stakeholders, and requests from Liberal MPs, the government has decided to defer the Firearms Marking Regulations to December 1, 2009.

To date, of the 64 countries that signed the protocol agreement or adhered to it, only one country – Brazil - has ratified it and begun implementing the marking requirements.

The decision to defer will allow us to consult with law enforcement agencies and industry in order to look at all options for marking and to examine similar initiatives in other countries.

Currently, all legal firearms

can be traced through the serial number which is located on the firearm. This will not change.

Our government is committed to the safety of all Canadians and to strong and effective gun control.

Background

In December 2004, the previous Liberal government enacted regulations requiring that imported firearms be marked with "CA" (for Canada) and the last two digits of the year of import. These regulations were originally scheduled to come into force on April 1, 2006 but due to concerns expressed by the industry, they were deferred by the previous government to December 1, 2007. It has now been deferred once again to December 1, 2009.

The proposed marking regulations arise from two international agreements: the Organization of American States Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (1997) and

the United Nations Optional Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (2002). Although the previous government signed both agreements, neither have yet been ratified by Canada.

C.O.R.E. / FIREARMS SAFETY TRAINING

The next C.O.R.E. Training Course is scheduled to start on Tuesday

- February 5, 2008
- 7:00 pm

Bond Lake Clubhouse

Contact: **Barry Jenkins**

Phone: **392-6750**

Out of Unenforceable Laws, Amnesties Are Born

By: Shankar Vedantam
Washington Post
June 4, 2007

The ambitious immigration overhaul package that Congress is studying has drawn criticism from conservatives who say it offers amnesty to lawbreakers, and from immigration advocates who say it will not do enough to bring millions of people out of the shadows.

But to Douglas Husak and Lawrence Solum, the elephant in the room is that the existing immigration law that underlies the debate has no connection with reality.

Husak and Solum, legal theorists and philosophers, argue that laws on immigration are part of a broad pattern. In recent decades, Congress has passed many laws that no one expects will be enforced. Such laws largely seem to serve symbolic purposes and are often designed to placate some powerful constituency -- conservatives in the case of immigration.

The divide between reality and what such laws say should happen is what produces the dilemmas that lead to amnesties. Immigration law has produced a situation where an estimated 12 million people in the country -- most of whom look, sound and act like law-abiding citizens -- are supposed to be apprehended, prosecuted and deported, a job that is not only beyond the capacity of the police and courts, but would wreck substantial parts of the economy were it attempted. "No one is so stupid as to think police are going to go out and round up 12 million illegal immigrants," said Husak. "Ninety million Americans have used illegal drugs. It is inconceivable you can punish them. Downloading copyrighted music [without paying for it] -- half or more of all teenagers are guilty.

No one is going to enforce such laws."

The consequence of symbolic lawmaking is over-criminalization, which turns out to be as difficult a problem to deal with in the long run as crime itself. It might sound good for a politician to sternly declare that draft dodgers are in violation of the law and at risk for prosecution, but how do you deal with thousands of Americans who evaded the draft during the Vietnam War -- after the country had concluded the war was lost and a ghastly mistake? You offer them amnesty, of course.

Federal laws that make it a crime to include false information on a mortgage or car-loan application have turned tens of thousands of people into potential felons -- because they say that their parents gave them money for a down payment, rather than lent it to them, Solum says. Saying the money is a gift makes the borrower seem like a better risk.

"People commit perjury all the time," added Solum, at the University of Illinois College of Law. "People in civil cases shade the truth in depositions and on the stand all the time -- and we know that because there are radically inconsistent stories being told all the time -- but we almost never prosecute perjury that arises in a civil lawsuit."

When laws are passed that cannot or will not be enforced, people quickly come to understand that the law does not mean what it says. This is why, if you actually happen to drive at the 55 mph speed limit on the Capital Beltway, you seriously run the risk of getting rear-ended by the flood of vehicles that are whizzing by 10 or even 20 miles per hour faster.

"When we set up laws that are intended to express symbolic disapproval, but that we are not willing to enforce, we send a message that we are not expecting people to obey the

law," Solum said. "The immigration laws are a perfect example of that."

The problem is not just that when people start interpreting the law on their own, they come up with wildly different interpretations-- some people drive 5 mph over the speed limit, others think the magic cushion is 15 mph. The bigger problem with setting the bar too low, so that large numbers of people become lawbreakers, say Solum and Husak, is that it greatly enhances the discretionary powers of police, prosecutors and the executive branch.

The vast majority of people punished for speeding, drug violations or downloading music, or for perjury, prostitution or illegal immigration, are not targeted merely because they are breaking the law -- only a tiny fraction of those who break such laws, after all, ever get punished. Most people who get in trouble are the ones who police and prosecutors decide, for whatever reason, should be punished, Husak says. Enacting impractical laws that have largely rhetorical value, in other words, leads to selective enforcement -- with all the attendant risks of unfairness and bias.

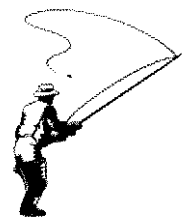
"The myth is that legislators are the most important people in the criminal justice system," Husak said. "But when legislators draft laws that are very broad, they abdicate their roles and give prosecutors the power to decide who will get punished and who should not."

Regardless of your political affiliations or your views on immigration, speeding, perjury or downloading music, Solum and Husak say, that's no way to run a country.



Decriminalization of the Firearms Act:

Of considerable concern is the fact that since the implementation of Bill C-68, a simple administrative error made by a firearm owner is dealt with as a criminal matter. This issue alone has convinced firearms owners that the government is more intent on punishing legitimate firearms owners than it is with public safety or controlling the criminal use of firearms. Regardless of the attempts by the federal government to publicize the requirements of the Act, many people are still confused as to their legal responsibilities. They should not be threatened with a criminal record because of this.



KELOWNA POACHER GETS FINED

By Judie Steeves
Staff reporter

Poaching a moose has cost a Kelowna man \$3,300, a two-year prohibition on hunting and possession of firearms and a criminal record. Dean Smith plead guilty before Judge Ellen Burdett Tuesday in Kelowna court to two counts under the Wildlife Act for hunting in a closed season and failing to retrieve the edible portions of game. A joint submission by the Crown and defence was accepted by the judge. Smith will pay a \$50 penalty on each charge and \$3,200 to the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund for shooting a moose in the Dawson Creek area Oct. 23, 2003. Moose with 10 points or more on their antlers were in season, and this bull didn't have the required points. Conservation Officer Greg Hoyer said



Smith realized it after he'd shot the animal but left it in the bush and headed home instead of reporting his mistake. "The key is he made a mistake by shooting before clearly identifying his target, but then he made a much bigger mistake. Instead of phoning the local Conservation Officer and reporting it, he abandoned the animal and left it to waste," commented Hoyer. Another hunter had seen that moose earlier, turned it down because it wasn't legal, and then saw the other shooter take it. He wrote down his licence

plate number and a good description of the man and reported it. Hoyer said such incidents happen more often than they should, but the crucial decision is what action is taken after the shot is made and he discovers it's not a legal animal. "I deal with similar situations every hunting season, and if it's an honest mistake and it's reported to me

I'll usually direct the hunter to dress the animal and drop it off at a butcher shop, then come in and see me. "As a rule I will issue a violation ticket of \$100 to \$200 and give him a written warning for the more serious charges," said Hoyer. The meat is donated to charity and the person who made the mistake gets a small fine, but no record, because he took responsibility for the mistake, he explained. "The ones who run and try to hide it won't get away with a written warning and small fine," he added. "It (which decision is made) separates the ethical sportsman from the poacher," he summarized. There are far more such incidents than in the past, partly because there are so many special open seasons now, where antler configuration is the deciding factor in whether an animal is legally in season or not, he said. jsteeves@kelownacapnews.com

NEW WLSA WEBSITE ADDRESS:

<http://www.williamslakesportsmen.com/>

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