



## **ALBERTA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**

Established 1902  
P. O. Box 1015  
Station M  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2K4

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### APRA President's Report

Dear Fellow Shooters,

Let me start by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous new year.

To say that 2016 has been a tough year would be an understatement with the economy, political challenges in North America and numerous other calamities at home and abroad.

On a more shooting focused front, our membership is higher than ever and our clubs continue to make capital improvements for the long term benefit of members and the shooting disciplines they support. Every club has made capital improvements in 2016 and the APRA board of executives look forward to supporting further improvements in 2017. Please take the time to thank your club & APRA executives for their tireless labors on your behalf.

Volunteers from our membership have made significant contributions of time and talent towards our shooting disciplines and improving our facilities. My thanks go out to those that tirelessly organize matches, help fellow shooters and shoulder the administrative responsibilities of administration and management of our facilities. Volunteers for range cleanup days, Casino volunteers, work parties and special events make a world of difference in the success of our clubs and shooting disciplines. I hope that all of you can look back on 2016 and recognize how your service helps make our organization such a wonderful success.

In 2016, a number of our members participated in competitions at the provincial, national and international levels and we are proud to have members that raise the profile of our shooting sports to such levels and congratulate them on their successes.

On our Homestead road facility, we cleaned the old public ranges, fenced them off and implemented the gate to our lease in order to create a safer and more manageable shooting environment for our organization. The RCMP also patrolled Homestead road at least weekly during the summer and routinely wrote

numerous tickets per visit to those unlawfully shooting in the area. This has reduced the traffic on Homestead road and the number of issues we have had to deal with from public use and misuse, of APRA facilities.

The gate has created a few issues but overall I want to thank the membership for supporting the use of the gate. We are not planning any changes to the combination locks on this "main gate" to our facility as it is meant only as a means to control access to our lease in the simplest manner possible.

We continue to work through the changes related to the closing of the public shotgun and public rifle ranges. Optimistically we look forward to adding another steward on the old public rifle range in the upcoming year(s) as we close off all the paperwork with the Alberta government. This has taken more time than originally expected however, it does continue to move forward slowly but surely.

As firearms owners I encourage everyone to participate in organizations that support and foster our rights in Canada. Within our volunteer organization the executive participate in the successful management of APRA business according to the bylaws most recently updated a couple of years ago. There is a large work to be done in Canada by other groups that facilitate firearms owners' rights and work with the Canadian government for reasonable legislation. Please do what you can to support such groups to maintain the rights and freedoms we have to day.

The AGM is only a few short weeks away and I look forward to seeing you all at this important business meeting for the APRA. Happy holidays and may your shooting in 2017 be safe and successful.

Sincerely

Bob Richards

APRA President