

RNBRA Annual General Meeting President's Report
Gordon Holloway Sussex New Brunswick October 29, 2017

Serving the RNBRA as president this past year has been an enjoyable experience. Foremost, it has provided me with the opportunity to work with a group of dedicated volunteers that share my interest in advancing the sport of competitive shooting. The mission of the RNBRA is to Promote Marksmanship through Competition. A goal that has been met by the exceptional competitive shooting programs organized by our pistol and full bore sections and affiliated clubs. As evidence of this one only has to consider the outstanding marksman from New Brunswick that placed highly in regional, national and international competition during the past year. The following are some highlights from 2016-17.

The RNBRA has successfully celebrated its 150 anniversary (1866-2016). A symbol of our history is the prominent display of the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup at New Brunswick Government House. This cup was originally provided by the Prince Edward Albert in 1861 to promote marksmanship competition in New Brunswick. The maintenance of this valuable trophy, in pristine condition, over 157 years and 7 generations of the New Brunswick Rifle Association speaks to the character of the volunteers that are attracted to the RNBRA and its mission. In addition, the Honourable Jocelyne Roy-Vienneau, Lt. Governor of New Brunswick, graciously assumed the role of Patron to the RNBRA and attended the New Brunswick 2017 Full Bore Annual Prize Match to present the Prince of Wales Challenge Cup and Governor General Medals silver and bronze medals.

RNBRA membership has remained stable over the past year. RNBRA membership provides insurance under the NFA program (posted on the RNBRA website) and is mandatory for shooting on DND ranges. This year the RNBRA website has been updated to allow online completion of application forms and payment by Email Money Transfer (EMT).

The RNBRA sanctioned 2016 provincial championships in small bore, shotgun, full bore and practical pistol in addition to regional championships. These competitions were held at private sports clubs affiliated with the RNBRA and on Base Gagetown. The importance of private sports clubs and the DND ranges in fulfilling our mandate to promote marksmanship cannot be overemphasized. We are grateful for their support of these events and all the competitive events that are hosted leading up to provincial championships.

The RNBRA continues to be the provincial sports organization for the shooting sports. This year the RNBRA applied for funding from the Sport and Recreation Branch of the NB Government to support competitive shooting in the province. The RNBRA received \$16,000 of which \$12,000 was distributed to our pistol and full bore sections and a youth air gun program at St. Croix Sports Club. These funds were used for the support of athlete development and the running of competitive shooting programs. The remainder of the provincial funding (\$4,000) was used to support training of Range safety officers and administrative expenses of the RNBRA. The RNBRA continues to maintain sound financial accounts. In the past year we have moved to online banking to modernize the handling of these accounts.

There are also some outstanding issues that the board was unable to resolve and which in my opinion require further attention by the incoming RNBRA Board.

The RNBRA set aside money for shooter training but the board was unable to identify a formal training approach that they felt confident would enhance the quality and the number of competitive shooters. Currently, providing a framework of competition within which interested shooters can develop is the primary pathway to success in provincial level competition and beyond. The RNBRA recognizes that informal mentorship is an essential element of this development. The challenge is to fit this experience together with the body of training knowledge that exists in other sports.

There are currently 21 privately owned sporting clubs in NB which have chosen to affiliate with the RNBRA. These affiliated clubs provide the facilities to attract potential competitive shooters, develop competitive shooters and host provincial, regional, and in some cases national level competition. However, the number of affiliated clubs is not growing. This is in spite of the fact that there are several clubs in New Brunswick which have committed groups of competitive shooters (in disciplines not currently represented on the RNBRA board). To address this situation, several clubs were contacted to discuss the role of the RNBRA in competitive shooting. We have also provided affiliated clubs with a vote in the AGM so they become part of the decision making of the RNBRA.

Further efforts should be made in the coming year to involve the competitive shooting clubs in the RNBRA. Finally, I would like to thank the volunteers on the RNBRA board for the many hours that they donated to the running of the RNBRA.

Good Shooting

Gordon Holloway