

# The Buffalo Bulls-Eye

The official newsletter of the  
**Buffalo Target Shooters Association**  
PO Box 394  
300, 8120 Beddington Blvd NW  
Calgary, AB T3K 2A8



## A message from your Board

Your executive is urging you to get out and VOTE in the forthcoming federal election. We take no partisan stand, vote your conscience and your beliefs. But do educate yourself on the stands the different political parties take on so-called "gun control." As law abiding gun owners whose gun ownership has been cleared by the RCMP through the issuance of the Possession and Acquisition License (the PAL), we have proven to the authorities that we possess guns for recreational use only.

Your club insists on absolute safety in the use of your firearms. Those who would advocate further restrictions on gun ownership by responsible, law abiding citizens, in order to cut down on gun crime are using arguments based on hysteria to appeal to Canadians who are rightly concerned about gun crime. Because gun crime is committed by criminals who take no heed of gun laws, who acquire their guns illegally, and who use guns in the commission of crimes, no firearms ownership restrictions will work to lessen gun crime.

Further restrictions on gun ownership will only hinder the legal firearms owners who obey the law at every stage from the legal purchase, transfer, storage and use of firearms. To promise otherwise is a complete sham, a falsehood perpetrated on legal guns.

So, to repeat, educate yourself about the positions taken by the political parties on gun ownership and vote to stop our government from further restricting our ability as law abiding citizens to own and legally use firearms.

## COMPETITION AND PROGRAMS

Please check out the [events page](#), as all the USPSA, Steel Challenge, and Action Shooting League events are all wrapping up for the year in the next month or so.

BTSA on the Web:  
[www.btsa.ca](http://www.btsa.ca)

For general queries,  
email: [info@btsa.ca](mailto:info@btsa.ca)

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## IMPORTANT

All communication  
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Please note any  
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APRA on the Web:  
[www.albertarifle.com](http://www.albertarifle.com)

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Black Badge courses

We had 52 students in 2019, 17 of which are BTSA members, and 2 others Swiss members. Approximately 25,000 rounds sent downrange.

### RANGE ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE

There will be large scale grading and surfacing work in the next month if the weather holds. Please watch the calendar carefully for any range closures.

### MEMBERSHIP & WEBSITE

We are drawing 2019 memberships to a close before the end of September as it is increasingly more difficult to offer orientations to new members with the unfavourable weather and limited daylight hours for weekday offerings.

### An important Message about our auditory health;

#### Hearing Loss in Adults: Things to consider for shooters

by Dr. Carrie Scarff, PhD Audiologist Fall 2019

Strict guidelines are in place for protecting your ears when shooting. Many people are unaware of the background behind why this is so important. Here are the reasons why:

Our hearing system is complex and delicate. We hear sound because it travels down our ear canal, vibrates our eardrum and tiny ear bones, and finally vibrates the tiny hair cells in our inner ear. These tiny hairs send a message to our brain which tells us what kind of sound we are hearing. The tiny hairs are delicate. They wear down over time from natural aging but also from loud sustained or repeated noise. In fact, when they are exposed to loud noise, they become permanently damaged, and we can experience long term hearing loss just as we do from aging.

Hearing loss affects many aspects of our lives. Once we have it, it is permanent. Unfortunately, once hearing loss occurs, there is evidence that the gray matter of our brain atrophies significantly approximately 4.5 years if left without the proper treatment. This means that even if we provide the proper sounds to the ear, after a certain point in time, this will no longer help because there are fewer cells to receive the auditory input correctly (Lin et al., 2014, John Hopkins Medical Centre).

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PREVENTION IS THEREFORE KEY since hearing loss is permanent. Wearing properly fitting hearing protection consistently will reduce the likelihood of hearing damage.

Canadian research also show that most people are unaware that they have hearing loss. Therefore, here are some of the common **signs and symptoms of hearing loss to be aware of that maybe indicative of hearing loss in yourself or someone you care about:**

- o More difficulty hearing women and children's voices
- o Turning up the tv louder than friends or family
- o Difficulty hearing in a noisy place
- o Withdrawing from social activities where it is noisy
- o Hearing people speaking but not understanding what they say
- o Asking people to repeat themselves frequently
- o Feeling that people mumble all the time
- o Frequent ringing or buzzing in the ears
- o Talking loudly or always talking over others

If you or someone you care about experiences two or more of these symptoms on a regular basis, you should arrange for a hearing evaluation. You can refer yourself for a test.

If your hearing care professional identifies hearing loss, don't delay in seeking help. There are multiple reasons to receive treatment including brain health, improved relationships with friends and family, and being able to experience the activities that you enjoy without missing out on what's being said. There are numerous types of technologically advanced devices that are available to help you. Contact us to find out more.

*This information was provided by Dr. Carrie Scarff, Registered Audiologist at Audiology Innovations ([www.audiologyinnovations.ca](http://www.audiologyinnovations.ca)) and Board member of Deaf and Hear Alberta. Her and her colleagues Eunice Estrada and Elan Feldman can be reached at their clinics in Calgary at 403-252-4722/403-802-6022.*