

St. John's Rod and Gun Club
2026 Annual General Meeting
Trap Report

Overall, 2025 was a good year on the trap field but generally less busy than other years. The club's trap group continued to hold regular Sunday trap shoots and the competitive ATA shooters had their normal schedule of ATA registered shoots that establishes averages and helps them meet target requirements for the larger shoots. However, the core group of volunteers were out of out of province attending shoots for several weeks, wildfires closed the club during the busiest time of the year, and the unavailability of trap committee members to coordinate regular shoot days cancelled some shoots. There was also little shooting in October and November as shooters were mostly occupied moose hunting. So, this year's trap report will focus on our club shoots and how our shooters fared at out-of-province competitions.

The Season Opener ATA registered shoot was held on Sunday, May 25. It was a cold, damp, and windy day but the weather didn't dampen spirits as a few shooters recorded some noteworthy milestones. Troy Coldwell registered his 25 000th career ATA singles target during the shoot and Duncan Coldwell (Troy's son) joined the ATA and registered his first targets. Duncan has been helping out during club shoots and has been shooting sporting clays recreationally for the last 2 years. Duncan plans on shooting more ATA targets this year and is looking forward to competing in the 2025 Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships. In other firsts, Billy Guest recorded his first 25 straight in singles in ATA shooting. Congratulations also goes out to Christian Winter for shooting his first 50 straight in doubles.



In late June, Peter Tucker, John Tucker, Troy Coldwell, Andrea Bassan, and Christian Winter travelled to Ontario to compete in the Canadian Trapshooting Championships and the Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Championships.

The Canadian Trapshooting Championships were held at Hamilton Gun Club near Stoney Creek, Ontario from June 26 to 29. The 1000 target tournament attracted 186 shooters from across Canada and the United States. Troy Coldwell won several awards including the Canadian Singles Championship, Doubles Open Champion and High All Around Open Champion. At this year's shoot, Andrea Bassan was inducted into the Canadian Trapshooting Association's Hall of Fame and was recognized for his contribution to trapshooting in Canada through his involvement with the Canadian Trapshooting Association, the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Association, and the St. John's Rod and Gun Club.

The St. Thomas Gun Club in St. Thomas, Ontario hosted the Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Championships from July 2 to 6. The group of club members extended their Ontario visit and competed

in that shoot also. The Ontario Provincial Shoot is one of the largest ATA Provincial Trapshooting Championships and this year's shoot had 170 shooters from across Canada and the United States register for the 5-day, 1000 target tournament. Coldwell continued to shoot well and won AA Class in the White Flyer Singles, Champion in the White Flyer Doubles, Champion in the Peter Tsementzis Doubles, Open Champion in the Ontario Doubles Championship, and Non-Resident Runner Up in the High Over All. Bassan also shot well, winning A Class in the Peter Tsementzis Doubles and Open A Class in the Ontario Doubles Championship. In the Peter Tsementzis Doubles, Bassan also recorded his 25 000th career ATA Doubles target.

On July 26, the St. John's Rod and Gun Club were one of the 2 host clubs for the NL Provincial Trapshooting Championships. Shooters on the west coast of NL shot their targets at the Stephenville Gun Club. This type of shoot is known as a satellite shoot where shooters can participate at multiple host clubs. This type of shoot format reduces travel costs and generally increases participation. Christian Winter won his first provincial Singles title and in the Doubles Championship, club shooters made a clean sweep. Coldwell claimed the Champion award and in A through D Class it was Winter, Billy Guest, Peter Tucker and Dan Donnelly. It was another clean sweep for the club in the Provincial Handicap Championship with John Tucker winning the Champion award and Winter taking Runner-up. Coldwell, Guest and Larry Rosa placed 3rd through 5th. Coldwell also won the High Overall award.

In late August Troy Coldwell, Duncan Coldwell, Andrea Bassan, Christian Winter, Peter Tucker, John Tucker, and Brian Lewis travelled to Nova Scotia for the Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships. The Highland Gun Club near Yarmouth, NS, hosted 51 shooters for the 4-day, 1000 target ATA Provincial Shoot from August 28 to 31. The Atlantic Provinces differs from all other ATA States and Provinces in that the provinces of NL, NS, PE and NB form the ATA "Province."

During the Atlantic Provinces Preliminary Day events, Coldwell and Bassan won AA and A Class respectively in the APTA Class Singles. Bassan had tied for Champion with 4 other shooters but came up 1 target short in the carry-over to determine the Champion. In the APTA Class Doubles, Coldwell won AA Class.

The Atlantic Provinces Championship events include 200 Singles, 100 Doubles and 100 Handicap. In the Atlantic Provinces Singles Championship, Coldwell took Runner-up finishing just 1 target behind NS shooter Doug Blades. In the Atlantic Provinces Doubles Championship, Coldwell won Champion and Bassan won AA Class.

In the Atlantic Provinces Handicap Championships, Coldwell tied with NB shooter Jamie Leblanc which forced a shoot-off to settle. Coldwell won that shoot-off to take the Champion award. Coldwell's score also placed him on the 27-yard line which is the longest yardage possible in ATA registered shooting. Also in the Handicap Championship, Winter placed 6th overall and John Tucker won the Sub Veteran category award.

Duncan Coldwell, competing in his first Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships, won the Junior award in the Singles, Doubles and Handicap Championships. In the Team events, Coldwell and Bassan won the 2 Man Team in Singles and Doubles. Troy Coldwell also won High All Around Champion for the 400 Championship targets and High Over All Champion for the complete 1000 target program. In all, Coldwell won 5 of 6 Championship titles.



The Canadian Trapshooting Association (CTA) organized a Coast to Coast Shoot on September 13 with 266 shooters participating at 17 clubs across Canada. The St. John's Rod and Gun Club was one of the host clubs. With Canada's top shooters participating, the competition was stiff and near perfect scores were required to win. Club shooters shot well but did not make the winner's circle.

In late November, the club held a combination Turkey Shoot / Memorial Shoot featuring sporting clays and trap events. The weather made the 2-day shoot challenging to plan and required a couple of weather postponements. However, organizers were determined to hold the shoot.

In the Memorial Shoot, events are held in memory of members who are no longer with us. John Molloy was a young active member, Dave Anstey was a past president of the club and spearheaded many club improvements in the 1990s, and Roger Bidgood was one of the club's founding members.

The Molloy and Anstey families continue to visit the club and participate in the annual Memorial Shoot. Bassan won the John Molloy Singles and Dave Anstey High Gun Overall events. Bassan and Troy Coldwell won the Roger Bidgood Two Man Team Award. William Moulard had the high Junior Score in the Memorial Shoot's trap events.



The Elliott Leyton Top Gun Award for the high combined score in the Memorial Shoot's sporting clays and trap events was awarded this year for the first time. Elliott passed away a number of years ago and was a long-time club member. He was also a mentor to many club members. Elliott shot everything the club offered; rifle, pistol, trap, and sporting clays and a Top Gun Award seemed appropriate to remember Elliott. Congratulations to Christian Winter for posting the top combined score to win the inaugural Elliott

Leyton Top Gun award. Duncan Coldwell posted the high Junior score of all Juniors that competed in both the sporting clays and trap events.



Early in 2025, Bob Nightingale, another long-time and active member of the club, passed away after a brief illness. Bob was an avid trapshooter and dearly enjoyed his time at the club. As Bob's health started to decline, he continued to shoot but two boxes was all that he could manage, earning him the nickname Two Box. The Nightingale family wanted to do something special to remember Bob and the Two Box Award was created and held during the club's Memorial Shoot. The event consisted of 25 single trap targets followed by 25 wobble trap singles. Congratulations to Troy Coldwell on shooting the top score in the inaugural event.



The 2026 season is shaping up to be a much busier season than last year. A full slate of ATA registered shoots is already planned, and in addition to the Sunday trap shoots, the trap committee is planning to revive the Thursday evening shoots. The CTA Coast to Coast Shoot is a go again for 2026, and the Memorial Shoot is scheduled for the traditional mid-August date. The club's group of travelling trapshooters are heading to Alberta for another trapshooting trip. The shooters will head to High Prairie and the DVine Trap Range's All Peace Shoot and then the Canadian Trapshooting Championships in Edmonton.

The St. John's Rod and Gun Club will also be hosting the 2026 Atlantic Provinces Trapshooting Championships September 2 to 6. Shoot preparations are already underway and the shoot committee is actively promoting the shoot, soliciting sponsors, and ordering trophies. Our club has gained a reputation for organizing well-run shoots and showing visiting shooters the greatest of hospitality. Interest in this year's shoot is as popular as other years. Our shoot often attracts shooters from across the country, and south of the border, and this year is no different. In addition to shooters from across the Atlantic Provinces, shooters from Alberta, Ontario, and New Jersey have already made their travel plans to attend. The shoot committee will be looking to club members for help with this year's shoot. It takes a lot of effort to put off an event of this size and if you're interested in helping, please contact the trap committee.

If you would like to try shooting, attend one of the regular trap shoots and have some fun. The club's trapshooters are a friendly group and only too eager to help.

Thanks to everyone that helped make the 2025 trap season possible. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Andrea Bassan
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