

## HISTORY OF THE SELKIRK GAME & FISH JUNIOR RIFLE CLUB

Apparently the Selkirk Junior Rifle Club was the second such club to be formed in Manitoba, Neepawa was the first. It started up, in Selkirk, in the fall of 1955 under Jack Crucq, Chief Instructor with Casey Hartevelde and Henry Grandt as Instructors. The members shot one night per week at a gravel pit located West of town which meant the club shot summers only. The Club, at that time, consisted of about 12 members and gun handling was emphasized more so than the actual sport of shooting. Outside shooting was carried on for about 2 years after which the Club moved indoors to the old root cellar at the Selkirk Mental Health Centre.

An indoor range was constructed in 1958 by the Sea Cadets with the assistance of the Selkirk Legion. This range was located on Jemima next to where the water tower now stands. At this point the Club increased to about 24 members. Jack Crucq and Kaare Bow were Chief Instructors. The Selkirk Club was able to host several competition shoots with other clubs such as the Neepawa Club and C.F.B. Winnipeg. Their shooting season was from September to June and consisted of Saturday night shooting. Pistol shoots were the most popular competitive event the Club participated in and won one year.

In 1965, Kaare Bow who was originally from Neepawa and joined the Selkirk Club in 1958, took over as Chief Instructor. The membership remained at about 25. Selkirk Game and Fish Association assisted the Junior Rifle Club with any major expenses that they may have incurred. The Selkirk Junior Rifle Club actively participated in the Provincial competitions each year and always brought home their share of individual trophies. Andy Crut, Lorna Crucq, Keith Watson were some of the Junior members who brought home high individual trophies in their category.

The indoor range burnt and the Kinsmen Club of Selkirk undertook the task of building a new range in the basement of the Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive School in 1972. Dave Gursky was Chief Instructor and continued with the Club until 1974 at which time it folded due to lack of volunteer instructors.

In the fall of 1982, after much prodding by Ed Corby, the Selkirk Junior Rifle Club started up again under the Chairmanship of Marcel Vanevel with Wayne Goodman, Todd Forster, John Choquette and Dan Land assisting. The Club then consisted of about 30 members and shot every Saturday and Sunday evening. New guns were acquired through the assistance of local service clubs. Dan Land in 1983, took over the Chairmanship and Ben DeCarle joined the group as Hunter Safety Instructor.

In 1984, the Selkirk Junior Rifle Club did not start their season at the usual time due to the fact that it was uncertain as to whether or not they would have a place to shoot for the entire year. It appeared that the indoor range at the school may be closed down. The club, therefore, did not get started until January 1985 under the Chairmanship of Bill Flett with Terry Harris, Ben DeCarle assisting. The 26 members did their shooting every Saturday and Sunday night and put in a lot of extra practice time to catch up on the time lost.

Apologies are extended to anyone who has been excluded from this "History of the Selkirk Junior Rifle Club" as it was put together with the little information we were able to obtain.