

Lyndhurst Gun and Militaria Show

By Emma Taylor

The Lyndhurst Gun and Militaria Show has been gaining popularity since it began four years ago.

Organized by John Sideris, who also owns Wings Live Bait and Tackle in the village of Lyndhurst, the show is held three times a year at the Lyndhurst Legion Branch 504.

The response from the public has been very positive and each show sees close to 400 people coming through the doors. "We have people come from Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto and the United States. There is a lot of interest in what we have to offer," he said.

There are 75 vendor tables, with a variety of products ranging from firearms, antique guns, military antiques, jewellery and books, to hunting and camping gear.

Sideris said it is a nice venue for the show. People can come to Lyndhurst, have a bite to eat in the village or a light snack, offered by the Legion and then do a little shopping.

The entrance fee is very reasonable at only five dollars; and free for women and children under age 15. Sideris said the last few years has seen an influx of women attending these types of shows, so they are doing their best to



promote the sport to them as well. The show proceeds go towards paying for rental of the Legion, advertising and overnight security.

Branch 504 President, John Allan Thom, said that the gun show is a win-win situation for everybody involved and they are happy to support it. "People love the gun show. It is part of a circuit of shows, so there is a gun show every other month somewhere," he said.

Sideris' interest in guns and militaria stems from his 28 years in the Canadian forces where he serves as a Sergeant in the Royal Regiment of Canada out of Toronto. When the regiment was deployed to the area to assist during the ice storm of 1998, Sideris said he fell in love with the area. "We were driving around looking for a place to buy bait and found the old bait shop was closed because the elderly couple who owned it had passed away. We ended up purchasing the property and the shop. We have now been here for over five years," he said.

Sideris is also a member of the Lyndhurst Legion and said he likes to support the Legion and the veterans. "I appreciate the sacrifices they made and I like to support the community as well. There are a lot of people that travel from abroad to the village of Lyndhurst and this show kind of puts Lyndhurst on the map, so to speak," he said.

There was also a wide selection of military and hunting jackets and clothing available. Military clothing isn't necessary for hunting but it is durable and sometimes waterproof. People like to wear it for fishing or hiking in the bush.

"There are a lot of folks that hunt around here and it puts healthy food on their table. There are a lot of collectors as well, so if you buy an antique firearm and want to put it over the mantle, you can come and find that here. Many hunters like to accessorize, whether it's clothing or extra shotgun shells and don't want to pay a ton of dough. They can come to the show and find something they're looking for," he said.



Sideris is a hunter himself; something he took up three years ago and truly enjoys. "I enjoy walking in the bush. I lose weight, I get fresh air, I sleep better and if I bag something, I get dinner on the table. If I don't, I'm just happy to be out there and be a part of nature," he said.

Vendor, Henry Baier, from Ottawa, served as a pilot in the Air Force from 1969-1977. "I'm not a dealer, but what I wanted to do was clear out many of the toys I have been keeping over the years. There's not much sense in keeping some of these things, so essentially, what I'm doing is finding good homes for unwanted stuff," he said.

He looks forward to the social aspect of the show and said there is a nucleus of dealers who all know each other and attend the same shows. **LH**

EDITORS NOTE

The next Lyndhurst Gun & Militaria Show is Sunday, February 23, 2014. All shows follow Provincial & Federal firearm regulations.