

OPP officers need more training

Dear editor:

It's nice to see some new OPP officers graduating and spreading across our huge province.

What isn't pleasing is the tiny amount of training an OPP officer receives before going out into the wider world.

Four months, or a bit longer, doesn't prepare a young officer for life behind the wheel of an OPP cruiser. Police training for any young man or woman must be, at least, 16 to 18 months. The provincial force has huge responsibilities and must have vast skills to face both the honest citizens and the crooked ones.

A few months in the classroom or on the firing range is not enough. Some of the candidates for the police force are not suitable and would be weeded-out if the training was much longer.

I've been 'on the road' for 53 years and in that time I've met some excellent OPP officers and have also met, or have known, some 'duds'. If the 'duds' had been removed during long and strenuous training, the taxpayer wouldn't be stuck with them until they retire.

I fully support the OPP, but I've always believed they, and all other forces, need much longer training.

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