

# Something to Think About

Submitted by Cpl. Daryl Stone

In my capacity as the Corporal in charge of a detachment training program and recruiting new members, I am constantly looking for written material which may be of assistance to members as they prepare for their new role in the community. I was recently invited to review a personal letter which had been written by a senior member of the Force to a 20-year-old friend who had just been offered engagement into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

This letter, if truly taken to heart, can serve as a guide not only to every new recruit constable but to many established members alike. I received permission to publish this letter, which I quote in part.

"Dear Laura:

The headquarters in Vancouver has confirmed to me that, subject to results of final medical and dental examinations, you have been invited to attend at the Regina Academy in early September to begin RCMP recruit training.

That news of acceptance either brought with it an abundance of excitement for you, or a degree of apprehension of what may lie beyond. I do hope it was the former, because it makes it so much easier to get motivated right at the start.

It has been a long time since I passed through the turnstiles of the Academy, and I recognize the many procedural changes and advancements in the Force since those days. However, a few rules and sound methods of approach will never

change. If you allow me to take a little of your time, I will share with you some of the obvious "what to expect, what to do, and what to try to avoid." This is not meant to suggest that any of my advice is needed, but it may come in handy someday when a decision is in the making.

When you arrive in Regina, you will probably be met at the airport, or you will take a cab to the barracks. Your initial exposure to Depot may be the strangest, lost, lonely feeling you have ever experienced. Then as the training days and months pass and you are preparing to leave, the same loneliness will repeat itself as you bid farewell to the 31 other troop personnel with whom you shared six months of hard work, laughter, enjoyment, disappointment and tears.

From the day you take oath and step into the barracks, until your training and career come to a close, your rapport, decision making, appearance, private life, political views, personal beliefs, choice of friends, etc., will be under the scrutiny of either the Force or the public. The image you portray may very well carry you to success, or be detrimental in some way.

The 32 of you will be moulded into one basic way of thinking and all will come under the same rule. There will be times which are scary, times of frustration, times when you will wonder why on earth you chose this career. But, you will soon see that each of you basically share the same concerns. You too will experience those long, tedious, cold, winter days