

Now he's an alumnus of the world's top police school

The class came from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Lebanon, Malaysia, the Philippines and Belgium.

The admission standards were high: "The candidate must possess outstanding character and reputation, and must have demonstrated unimpeachable moral conduct and integrity. To insure these standards are met, the FBI will conduct an investigation of each officer nominated."

The 50 students were policemen.

They had been hand-picked by their own departments, usually from the most senior positions, and, after a thorough screening, sent to the world's leading police school, the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Among them was a 37-year-old Mississauga, Des Rowland, the detective inspector in charge of the special services branch of Peel Regional Police.

Special Services is a catch-all phrase which means Rowland commands the detectives who investigate the homicides, frauds, drug trafficking and morality offenses in the region.

The 50-man class, or section, was part of a student body of 250 attending an intensive 12-week course of police education and training considered to be the finest in the world.

Only three officers from Canada attended — Rowland, an RCMP inspector, and an inspector from the OPP's special services branch.

Funded by the FBI at an estimated cost of \$10,000 per student, the academy provides what is, in effect, a post-graduate course on crime.

Forensic science is a top priority and students undertake an exhaustive study of the advanced principles of examination and preservation of evidence. Fingerprinting, photography, serology (the study of blood) and mineralogy are covered, as well as the more exotic subjects like instrumental analysis.

Students were told, for example, that a suspect's blood type can be identified by his saliva. Thus, a discarded cigarette butt at a crime scene can become a vital piece of evidence.

"A hair could mean the difference between solving or not solving a murder," Rowland observes.

Even a small piece of wadding from a spent shotgun shell can assist an investigator in determining the gauge of the weapon, and possibly the model.

Through neutron-activation analysis, arsenic and mercury can be detected in bone marrow, revealing that an apparently-natural death is murder. With an emission spectrograph, it is possible to identify a hit-and-run car by paint scrapings left at the scene.

Recognizing that today's police officer has a role in the community beyond the investigation of crime, the academy offers a course in "the socio-psychological aspects of community behaviour" in which current trends in society are discussed.

Rowland observed that social responsibility is shifting away from the family and religion to government and education.

"The course was designed to help us to interpret, predict and try to influence human behaviour, and give us a better understanding how 'people operate,'" he said.

One study, for example, showed that saturating an area with policemen does not necessarily lead to a decrease in crime.

Instead, the criminals move to adjoining areas and continue as before. Citizens, on the other hand, become less inclined to report offences, leaving that responsibility to the numeous and highly-visible policemen in their neighborhood.

In their psychology

By James Bailey

studies, the officers examined mental disorders such as schizophrenia, involuntary melancholia and manic depression. They learned that a psychopath is not necessarily a criminal.

"There are criminal and non-criminal psychopaths," Rowland explains. "A psychopath is simply a morally insane man who has no conscience."

For instance, a shady used-car salesman who sells you a car worth \$50 for \$400 and laughs about it is as much a psychopath as a gunman who kills three people without feeling any sense of guilt. The acts are different, but the motivation is the same.

There is a physical side to police work and that, too, is included in the program. Rowland walked down the famous "Hogan's Alley" target range where electronically-controlled figures representing criminals pop out of mock storefronts and windows.

The student has to make the split-second decision when to fire and when not to fire, and is required to explain his actions.

Shotguns and rifles are also used on standard firing ranges. The academy's chief weapons instructor is George Zeuss, a six-foot, seven-inch FBI agent who brought James Earl Ray, the murderer of Martin Luther King, back from London. Rowland, by the way, qualified as a sharpshooter.

He also received certificates declaring him to be an honorary colonel of the state of Louisiana, and an honorary citizen of the state of Tennessee, a result of applications made by friends at the academy to the appropriate authorities.

The important paper, however, is the graduation diploma he received from FBI director Clarence Kelley. As an Associate of the National Academy, Rowland has access to resource material and computer information from the FBI which he can use in training Peel detectives.

Rowland concludes: "The program really opened my mind to a number of new ideas, which I hope to pass on to other officers on our force."



Inspector Des Rowland of Peel Regional Police receives graduation diploma after completing FBI National Academy course from FBI director Clarence Kelly at a ceremony in Quantico, Virginia.

St. John Ambulance offering two courses

There will be a home nursing course at Mississauga Hospital, 100 Queensway W., beginning Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$5. The Standard First Aid course will be given at Westwood Secondary School, 3545 Morningstar Dr., Malton, starting Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$12.50. Both courses are 16 hours.

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