

Ex-Examiners: Professionals at road safety

Education and experience are the best teachers when the subject is road safety and learning how to drive, and you can find both of these at Ex-Examiners Driver Education and Training Inc.

All instructors at Ex-Examiners are exactly that – ex-examiners from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). Who better to teach you the skills and know-how that you need to operate your vehicle than the people who were trained professionally to test you on your skills. The company has been in operation for the past one and a half years, but the instructors have over 18 years of testing experience and have evaluated approximately 80,000 road tests in their careers.



Tom Blyth, owner and operator of Ex-Examiners.

Tom Blyth, owner of the business, says that there was a real need for their company in the industry in order to improve the current reputation. Along with his partner, lead in-class instructor Alan Ward, Blyth offers classes within the company's own facilities at Don Mills and Lawrence, just minutes away from the MTO offices at Victoria Park and Lawrence. They also offer after-school programs through some of the local high schools.

“Our most valuable service is integrity and honesty. While working as an examiner, I saw many students who knew only the basics in order to operate the car. What they really needed was a full understanding of everything to do with road safety.”

The two main packages that Ex-Examiners offers are the Ultimate Advantage package and The Booster package. In Ultimate Advantage, students receive 25 education in-class hours as well as 10 safe and informative in-car hours. In addition, this course offers an added three hour Pre-Road Test prior to your actual road test that includes pre-test coaching, additional practice time and simulated testing.

Ward says, “No one else gives as much time to their students as we do – almost thirty percent more, in addition to in-class sessions.” At

\$629 (plus G.ST.) this package is a great bargain.

The Booster package offered is great for those aiming for their full G license and includes two hours in-car training and a one-hour Pre-Road test. These lessons will help refresh G2 drivers with rules they may have forgotten through bad habits, but are part of the demanding highway test given by the ministry. The Booster package is offered for \$249 (plus G.S.T.), with extra lessons available at \$40 an hour.

Rounds of classes start constantly so that you don't find yourself waiting to begin. Currently, they have courses offered that consist of the following breakdowns: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday for two weekends or 6 p.m. – 9 p.m., Monday and Wednesday nights, for four weeks. Driving schedules for in-car hours are worked out with the students at their convenience. Blyth says they are “really flexible in arranging in-car lessons,” and offer students the chance to test their driving in many conditions, such as night-time driving.

Blyth also noted that all in-car lessons are private and one-on-one with instructors:

“Sometimes students are made to take (in-car) lessons in groups of two or three. We ensure that only one student



Blyth teaches Brittany Belliveau about the dials and indicators on the dashboard.



Courses are offered in their own facilities as well as at local schools. Here, Blyth stands with partner Alan Ward and students L-R: Catherine Foster, Ali Hodgins, and Belliveau.



is being taught at any one time. Our instructors pick our students up directly from their home, complete the lesson and then drop the student home when finished.”

In terms of other services,

in the near future, Ex-Examiners will be adding Truck Training classes to their offerings, as well as Tuesday and Thursday evening courses.

Ex-Examiners Driver

Education and Training Inc. is located at 895 Lawrence Ave. East, Suite 19D. They can be contacted at 416-752-5552 or you may visit www.ex-examiners.com for more information.