

Police trying licence plate recognition system



This camera is one of three mounted on the roof of this police vehicle that will be registering information from licence plates to aid police. Seen here are OPP constables Steve Szabo, John Rosa, Brenda Evans and Inspector Rose DiMarco. Photo by Bill Rea

By Bill Rea

Caledon OPP are spending a month trying out a new Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) system, and it was unveiled last week.

Constable Steven Szabo said the system consists of cameras, facing both front and rear, that can read licence plates of vehicles. The data can be quickly processed to determine if there's something about the vehicle that would be of interest to police, such as stolen, wanted or belonging to prohibited drivers. He added the data bank of the Ministry of Transportation and Canadian Police Information Centre has about five million plates on file.

Constable John Rosa said the system can process two plates per second. He added the detachment is using the vehicle, belonging to OPP Central Region, for about a month of testing.

Szabo said there are five such vehicles in the province.

It's useful for the officers to actually capture information and respond to the hits, Inspector Rose DiMarco, commander of the detachment, said.