



DC Paralegal Services

1-888-NOT-X-COP

Available 24 hours / day

O.P.P. now has eyes in the sky to protect Ontario roadways. Planes are now being used to patrol the 400-Series highways.

August 1, 2008 – David Chatten

As of May 2008, the Ontario Provincial Police (O.P.P.) is now using a Cessna aircraft to observe drivers from a birds-eye view. The last time the O.P.P. used planes, on a regular basis to patrol Ontario highways, was from the mid-sixties to the early eighties when the program ended. From that point on, only leased aircraft were used during long-weekend blitzes.

Being able to observe potentially hundreds of cars at one time, allows the officers on the highways to intercept dangerous drivers that otherwise might not be caught by traditional squad cars. The major highways have now been painted with markings that allow officers to use various techniques to determine if a driver is operating his or her vehicle in an illegal manner. These lines painted on the highway every 500 meters, allow the officers in the plane to measure the time that elapses while a vehicle is moving from one line to the next. Based on the measurements, a speed can be determined, and information about the vehicle is then relayed to ground units, who then pull the vehicle over and issue an offence notice.

Enforcement is not limited to speeders either. The O.P.P. has also been catching drivers who have been racing, stunt driving, driving carelessly, changing lanes unsafely, and more. It can be difficult to argue certain defenses when an aircraft is used during the traffic stop. An officer in a helicopter or plane is in a position to observe the vehicle from the time of the offence until the traffic stop, without losing sight of the vehicle, which in some previous cases has proven as a very effective defence.

Now more than ever, it is important for a driver who is charged with an offence to speak to a licenced professional. A licenced Paralegal who practices in the Provincial Offences Act court on a regular basis will be able to advise a person as to what their options are. A driver should be able to have a free initial consultation with a paralegal, so it is important to have all the details of the offence and documents handy when you call. Be sure to ask questions if you don't understand what the paralegal is saying, or if one of the documents you received from the police is not clear to you. Any paralegal who offers a "We win or it's free" or any other guarantee as to the outcome of your charge(s) is in violation of the by-laws that govern a paralegal's practice as set out by the Law Society of Upper Canada.

If you or someone you who has been charged with a traffic offence, call D.C. Paralegal Services, 24/7 at 1-888-NOT-X-COP or visit www.IHaveATicket.com for a FREE consultation about your offence.