

July 11, 2003, by Jim Topham

I had the pleasure of having Amanda as my student for two years while she was enrolled in the Paramedic program at Conestoga College.

It did not take long for my fellow co-workers and I to realize the drive, determination and passion this young future recruit displayed for this profession. Amanda was always eager to learn more, and was enthusiastic to improve upon what she already knew. Even after achieving her life-long dream of becoming a paramedic, she would continue to study and seek guidance from her co-workers to become the best she could be.

Her attributes to the job were not only those learned in text books. Her genuine concern in caring for her patients came natural to Amanda. She was a very thoughtful, compassionate and sincere person.

She had a certain "aura" about her, similar to a mother with a child. She gave the sense of the caregiver, the one who will make everything right and feel better. Her comforting and consoling ways helped ease her patient's anxiety and uncertainty whether they were young or elderly.

Amanda spoke highly and often of her parents Lynn and David, and her big sister Lisa. Their love and support allowed Amanda to strive to conquer everything she wanted to do in life. Her perseverance, obtained by their inspiration, allowed her to accomplish in a short time, what many may ultimately never attain. Through reaching her dream she has touched the lives of many people, and made a difference in their lives. Her family's underlying love and faith in her aspirations, made her life fulfilling, and she was doing what she loved and what she had always wanted to do.

Her fellow Paramedics were her "other" or extended, family. Everyone considered Amanda as our "little sister". Many of her male colleagues assumed the role of the big brother and were very protective our "little sweetheart. Amanda was fun to tease and joke with, and fairly easy to embarrass, which would result in a deeper hue of pink in her already rosy cheeks!

Her lengthy and unique giggle would brighten a long day and inspire us to find some good in everything. She has touched many strangers' and friend's lives in many ways, and has left her mark on us forever. We will cherish the many happy memories we have gathered in such a short but treasured time.

Though Amanda will be deeply missed, we can take solace in knowing that she will be smiling down upon us with those big, white, perfect teeth, guiding us to comfort and care for those who need us, in the profession she loved and lived for.

*A good friend is hard to find, harder to lose and impossible to forget.
We love and miss you Finchy, you will remain in our minds and in our hearts forever more.*