



Ontario Paramedic Association

Life of Young Paramedic Inspires Award

Hundreds of Paramedics & emergency workers from across Ontario gathered together on a quiet morning in July to mourn the loss of Amanda Finch, AEMCA. Walking in silence the paramedics reflected upon the life cut short before them as the mile long procession wound its way along. Though their grief and tears, you could see their pride, strength & compassion as Amanda's fellow paramedics escorted her on her final journey.

The beloved Primary Care Paramedic tragically passed in her sleep on July 7, 2003 from complications of a recent surgery despite the heroic attempts by her co-workers to revive her. Although her career was short, Amanda's presence in Waterloo had a lasting impact upon all those who knew and worked with her. Always with a smile, and an eagerness for the profession, Amanda was highly respected and often thought of as a "little sister" by her co-workers.

"It was her life. That job was her life," Amanda's father, David Finch said. "She would come in every night and tell us the stories. It was never boring and she was proud -- proud to help people and do what she could."

In a letter from the Finch family, they expressed their appreciation for the overwhelming support from paramedics; "To her EMS family (and she truly believed you were her other family) she loved you all and would have been humbled by the incredible love, respect and honour you all bestowed upon her."

The Ontario Paramedic Association has established the Amanda Finch Memorial Award of Excellence to be presented each year to the most outstanding graduating Paramedic Student from each college program. Recipients shall be selected based upon not only academic merit, but more importantly excellence in patient care & leadership. Local awards will consist of a plaque and 2 year membership in the OPA.

The Amanda Finch Memorial Award shall be presented annually to the Primary Care Paramedic graduate who best exemplifies positive professionalism, maintains academic proficiency, possesses strong leadership skills & shows consistent enthusiasm towards the profession. One graduate may be recognized from each Ontario college paramedic program.

The award will consist of a plaque & 2 year full membership in the Ontario Paramedic Association. Selection will be based upon information provided to the committee by the respective college paramedic program administrators.

http://www.ontarioparamedic.ca/communications/media_releases/amanda_finch.html

<http://www.ontarioparamedic.ca/downloads/policies.html>