



## **Brief Life, Great Value...**

*KW Record*

*The value of a human life cannot be judged by how many years it lasts. Nor can achievement be measured solely by the number of honours that are heaped on an individual's head. In fact, we would argue that the most important lives are often those that touch and move the lives of others in simple, yet profound ways. By this measure, Amanda Finch, who died last week at the age of 21, was an incredible success story.*

*The Waterloo woman was neither rich nor a celebrity. She had worked just a short time in her chosen career as a paramedic. But in that brief span, she managed both to provide emergency assistance to people in great need and to make a lasting impression on more than 100 colleagues, the paramedics who serve Waterloo Region. So many things about her – her dedication, her warmth, her humanity - made her unforgettable.*

*That might explain why her colleagues cried after she died suddenly of an as-yet unexplained illness. It might also explain why hundreds of paramedics and other people came from across Ontario to attend her funeral last Friday. A good reputation travels far.*

*We have come to think of death as a regrettable inevitability that usually confronts the very old. For this reason, the sudden passing of young people like Amanda Finch, comes as a painful jolt. It seems unfair. It feels wrong. The consolation is that a life well-lived and well-loved, no matter how brief, is an enduring treasure that can never lose its value.*