



*Amanda Finch*

*Paramedics Region News Summer 2003  
by John Prno, Director, EMS Department*

*Early Monday morning, July 7th, our world was suddenly turned upside down. The absolutely horrific happened with Regional paramedics called upon to try and save the life of one of our own... Amanda Finch. Amanda was just 21 and recovering at home from minor surgery when something terrible and as yet unexplained happened. Despite the best efforts of her co-workers, firefighters, police officers and staff at Grand River Hospital, she could not be revived and passed away.*

*The remainder of the week was literally a blur, broken only by the images of street hardened paramedics in tears, the condolences from staff at the Region, across the province and beyond, and the close show of support of our paramedics for one another. Her paramedic co-workers volunteered to stand watch beside her casket as hundreds of her friends and family passed by.*

*Friday found almost six hundred mourners jamming Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Waterloo for Amanda's funeral. So many were present that a closed circuit TV feed was established to accommodate the crowd in a nearby auditorium. Uniformed paramedics from as far away as Sault Ste. Marie and Windsor joined 100 of our own staff in a send off that we know Amanda would have been extremely proud of. Neighbouring services provided ambulance coverage for the Region enabling staff to attend the funeral. As you can imagine it was an extremely emotional and beautiful service ending with a lone piper playing Amazing Grace as Amanda's casket was carried to her coach through a uniformed honour guard that stretched to the street and beyond.*

*Amanda was a very special young lady, mature beyond her years. It seemed to everyone that she'd been around forever. She fell in love with EMS during a Co-Op stint in high school, went on to spend two years here while a paramedic student at Conestoga College, and was a part-time paramedic with us since graduation in May of 2002. Only last month, had she accepted a long awaited full-time position.*

*In closing Amanda's eulogy, Paramedic Jim Topham summed up our feelings best: "A good friend is hard to find, harder to lose, and impossible to forget. We love you and miss you Finchy. You will remain in our minds and in our hearts forever."*