



Ron Aldred

Bowmanville

*Mortician, career paramedic,
passionate historian*

When I was 17, I was living in Lindsay. Bruce MacArthur, who ran a funeral business, asked me if I was willing to go out at night and pick up a body. He needed help and I said I would do it. That's how I got started. We would bring a body back to the funeral home and he would do the embalming and I would watch. When I was in grade 13, there was a funeral home in Whitby that was looking for an apprentice. I got that job. My pay was \$24 a week, and my room and board was \$16 a week. I worked 11 days on and then had three days off, and I was on-call every other night.

The business was the WC Town Funeral Chapel and Ambulance Service. All I needed was a chauffeur's license and my

basic first aid. Everything else you just learned on the job. Eventually, the funeral and ambulance businesses split, and it became the Whitby Ambulance Service, and then Durham Regional Ambulance Service in 1982. I worked for 30 years in the Whitby station, then Bowmanville for four years, and my last three years of service were out of Port Perry.

I moved to Bowmanville in 1981. I've always been a history buff. I was lucky enough to grow up with a mother who was a historian. I can remember people phoning her up to ask things about their family's history, and she'd rhyme off history for an hour with people she'd never met.

