

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

Upwardor and Tony Aquilina



Early installation truck, ca. 1974.



First building, ca. 1980.



Tony & Maria Aquilina, ca. 1982.



Upwardor logo, ca. 1985.



Headquarters facility, Milton, Ontario, ca. 2010.



Upwardor logo, 2015.



Tony Aquilina, ca. 2015.

Milestones

- 1973 ▶ With a loan of \$300, 25-year-old Tony Aquilina and his wife, Maria, open Upward Garage Doors, installing and repairing garage doors in the Toronto, Ontario, area. The business operates out of the garage of their home. They are immigrants from Malta.
- 1976 ▶ The company moves into a 2,000-sq.-ft. facility and enters the manufacturing arena, introducing the AL976 aluminum-framed garage door. Another expansion soon follows, bringing the building to 5,000 sq. ft.
- Late 1970s ▶ Aquilina pioneers the development of using polyurethane insulation for insulated steel doors as he introduces the Thermalex line of commercial insulated garage doors.
- Mid 1980s ▶ The Solalite aluminum-framed polycarbonate-glazed door is introduced, the only door in North America with a continuous hinge and a thermal break.
- 1986 ▶ The company name is changed from Upward Garage Doors to Upwardor Corp.
- ▶ Aquilina purchases land in Mississauga, Ontario, and builds a 10,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing facility, handling much of the construction by himself.
- Late 1980s ▶ Upwardor invents and patents its trolley-style Pow' AIR'Dor pneumatic door system. The product becomes popular on car-wash doors throughout Canada and the USA.
- Mid 1990s ▶ The company implements its first continuous foamed-in-place manufacturing line for polyurethane-insulated steel garage door panels. This first line is specifically for the Thermalex 2000 commercial insulated door.
- 1996 ▶ The Aquilinas expand their business globally, establishing Upward Door Systems (UDS) Ltd. in Malta, their home country.
- 2001 ▶ The company builds a 65,000-sq.-ft. state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Milton, Ontario. The plant includes Upwardor's second continuous foamed-in-place line to produce its first residential garage door, the polyurethane-insulated Stylistic 3000. The door features a pinch-resistant joint and a pivot bracket system, creating an essentially hingeless door.
- 2005 ▶ UDS Ltd. in Malta begins exporting its products to Tunisia. It later expands its export program to other countries in Europe and North Africa.
- 2006 ▶ Tony Aquilina develops the EZ123 bottom bracket, which allows the roller to be removed without taking tension off the spring.
- 2014 ▶ Tony and Maria Aquilina retire and sell Upwardor to James McEwen and Tony Anderson. The company has approximately 65 employees and manufactures commercial and residential steel insulated sectional doors, a line of aluminum doors, and a pneumatic operator.
- 2017 ▶ James McEwen exits the business, and Tony Anderson becomes the sole owner.
- 2018 ▶ Today, Upwardor Corp. markets its products through a dealer network throughout North America and other parts of the world.