



SIMCOE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Preschool Services Simcoe



**For Immediate Release  
January 30, 2008**

## **Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship to be received by Simcoe Community Services Board President David Barber**

**Barrie, ON** – A long-time local advocate of individuals who have an intellectual disability will receive the prestigious Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship at a Queen's Park ceremony tomorrow, January 31. David Barber is among 13 Ontario residents who will be presented with the medal by the Honourable David C. Onley, lieutenant-governor of Ontario. The medal recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions and achievements to Ontario communities. Barber will be honoured for his contributions toward advancing the human rights and opportunities of people who have an intellectual disability.

Simcoe Community Services' Chief Executive Officer, Lynn Price had the following remarks on David's accomplishments. "David Barber has acted in the capacity of President of Simcoe Community Services for the last several years. Under his leadership, the agency has grown in support capacity as well as geographic reach. David has met faithfully with MPs and MPPs to champion the rights of children and adults who have an intellectual disability. He also advocates tirelessly for improved wages for staff working in this sector. David is most deserving of this honour. Congratulations!"

Barber's volunteerism spans 40 years and includes his involvement with organizations like Toronto's Sunnybrook Hospital, the Canadian Red Cross, and the Alzheimer Society of Canada. In addition to his leadership role with Simcoe Community Services, David has acted in the capacity of President for the provincial organization, Community Living Ontario for two different terms, first in 1999, and again in 2006. During his first term, he successfully led the organization in challenging the Ontario government to repeal the offensively-named "Homes for Retarded Persons Act," communicating to government that such labels were out-dated and harmful to people who have a disability. Following this effort, then-Lieutenant-Governor, Hilary Weston, delivered a proclamation to officially repeal the name in 2001. During his second term, Barber's communication with the provincial government resulted in a significant increase to the Ontario Disability Support Program in March 2007.

"David is a skilled diplomat with an ability to rally people together. His contributions have helped to build a stronger Ontario where all people belong, have value, and contribute to the success of their communities," remarked Keith Powell, Executive Director of Community Living Ontario.

Barber resides in Whitby, Ontario with his wife, Sharon Piper. He has two adult children and three grand-children. He and his wife are owners of Piper, Barber Insurance Agency in Toronto, Ontario.

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Simcoe Community Services is a charitable, non-profit organization that is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The agency was established in 1953 by concerned parents wishing to offer their children with intellectual disabilities an alternative to institutional placement. In 2008, Simcoe Community Services is a multi-service agency that provides a wide range of programs and supports to pre-school children and their families including the Ontario Early Years Centre in the Barrie, Innisfil and Bradford. The agency also supports children, teens and adults who have an intellectual disability and believes that everyone can contribute to their community.

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