

Nomination Form

Nominations should be submitted on separate page(s) as an attachment to this form and include the following:

- 1) Nominator's Name, Address and Phone Number;
- 2) Nominee's Name, Address and Phone Number;
- 3) A detailed description of the nature of the contributions this individual, business or organization from Barrie has made in improving access, integration and independence for persons with disabilities;
- 4) Any supporting documentation to assist in assessing the contribution made (e.g. - letters of reference, publications, pictures, etc.); and
- 5) A minimum of two (2) references who can be contacted for additional information.

Nominator

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Nominee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Selection Process and Award Details

In alphabetical order, judges on The "Robert Kerr Accessibility Award" Nomination Committee include:

Patrick Brown (Member of Parliament, Barrie)
Ron Caldwell (MEDIchair Barrie)
Debbie Kerr (Robert Kerr's daughter)
John Kerr (Robert Kerr's son)
Pastor Paul Kerr (Robert Kerr's cousin)
Alex Nuttall (Barrie City Councillor, Ward 10)
Margaretta Papp-Belayneh (City of Barrie Accessibility Advisory Committee)
Albert Stein (City of Barrie Accessibility Advisory Committee)
Marion Tizzard (Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled)
John Tom (MEDIchair Barrie)
Laurie Widdess (Barrie Accessible Community Transportation Service)
JT McVeigh (Barrie Examiner)
Bob McIntyre (A-Channel)

One winner will be selected and recognized with the award at an October 2009 City Council meeting. On behalf of our corporate sponsor, MEDIchair Barrie, the winner will be recognized on a permanent trophy at City Hall and receive a commemorative plaque as well as a \$500.00 cash honorarium. In addition, Patrick Brown, Member of Parliament for Barrie, will provide acknowledgements from the Offices of the Prime Minister of Canada and Governor General.

Please send nomination form and supporting documents by September 30th, 2009 to:

The "Robert Kerr Accessibility Award" Nomination Committee

Patrick Brown, Member of Parliament
Attn: Arlene McLean
299 Lakeshore Dr, Suite 302
Barrie, ON L4N 7Y9
Fax: 705-726-3340

Email: barrie@servingbarrie.com

*In Recognition of the
Late Robert Kerr*



**ROBERT KERR
ACCESSIBILITY
AWARD**

Fostering an environment of equal participation by recognizing outstanding accomplishments which result in equal opportunities for persons with disabilities within Barrie.

THE AWARD: Fostering an environment of equal participation by recognizing outstanding accomplishments which result in equal opportunities for persons with disabilities within Barrie.

Eligibility Criteria:

Who is eligible to win this annual award?

- **Individual:** any person residing in the City of Barrie or working for a business or organization operating in the City of Barrie
- **Business:** any incorporated for-profit business operating in the City of Barrie
- **Organization:** any formal or informal group, or non-profit agency operating in the City of Barrie

Why is this Nominee eligible?

The goal of the annual Robert Kerr Accessibility Award is to foster an environment of equal participation for people with disabilities. Real obstacles exist and it is by bringing accessibility issues to the public and celebrating the successes that obstacles are overcome and people with disabilities are included in all aspects of community life.

People who have made their business barrier-free, employers who have hired persons with disabilities, or volunteers who have devoted their lives to empower persons with disabilities to achieve independence are some examples of nominees for this award. Please note the contribution does not have to be in the year previous to the award date.

If you know an individual, business or organization in Barrie deserving of such an award, please consider nominating them for the Robert Kerr Accessibility Award.

Background Information:

In Canada, National Access Awareness Week 2009 is May 31 to June 6, 2009.

Established in 1988, the original goals for this week, were to:

- Assess the level of community accessibility;
- Raise public awareness regarding existing barriers;
- Take action to remove barriers; and
- Celebrate achievements.

The goals of this week continue to urge changes that allow the full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life in the areas of Education, Leisure, Transportation, Housing and Employment.

This week must continue to be acknowledged! Successes must be celebrated and acknowledged and others must be encouraged to remove barriers to enable people of all ability levels to be involved in all aspects of community living.

National Access Awareness Week's mission statement, to challenge all Canadians to affect changes through community partnerships that result in equal access and full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of Canadian life, is being actioned in Barrie to honour the late Robert Kerr.

Patrick Brown, Member of Parliament for Barrie, and John Tom, owner/operator of MEDIchair Barrie, have partnered to promote inclusion within the City of Barrie by offering an annual Accessibility Award in honour of Robert Kerr, a long-time resident of Barrie who laboured tirelessly to make this a welcoming and inclusive city.

Mr. Robert Kerr

Robert Kerr was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of 14 and within months was permanently confined to a wheelchair. In the 1950's getting around in a wheelchair was cumbersome and daunting due to the large wooden wheelchairs and inaccessibility of all transportation.



Robert had a dream to make the changes necessary so that the physically disabled could live productive and successful lives within the community. As such Robert started what is now known as the Simcoe County Association for the Physically Disabled (SCAPD). He started with a dispatch out of his home for the first Barrie Accessible Community Transportation bus and assisted in many more endeavors including wheelchair - accessible housing, support care, employment and much more. As a result Barrie's Public Transportation is 85% wheelchair accessible!

Robert Kerr passed away December 6, 2008 and will not be forgotten.