

2005 ESS Volunteer of the Year



Beatrice Thalheimer, Barriere

In 1973 Beatrice Thalheimer began volunteering at a local church thrift shop, but didn't stop there. Her compassion and willingness to help others in need soon took her into the Emergency Social Services (ESS) volunteer field. One of the pioneers in the provincial Emergency Social Services volunteer program, Beatrice is now an Emergency Social Services Director (ESSD). She trains other ESS volunteers to respond to emergencies, and leads them as they open Reception Centres to register and temporarily house evacuees. A victim of Firestorm 2003 herself, when it looked like out-of-town transportation wouldn't arrive in time, Beatrice didn't hesitate to direct ESS volunteers to flag down departing vehicles and fill empty seats with other evacuees to ensure their safety. From floods to fires — Beatrice has spent many thousands of hours in volunteer service and she exemplifies true dedication to her family, friends and community.