

## **Barbara Gauthier, Business Development Trainer**

Barbara Gauthier joined PARO in 2009 as Business Development Trainer for the Breaking Barriers-Building Bridges program. This new regional program provides business development coaching/counselling services to persons with disabilities, including start-up and monthly support funds for eligible participants. These services are provided in partnership with the Independent Living Resource Centre and the Ontario March of Dimes.

Barbara brings to PARO her expertise as an entrepreneur, trainer and consultant. Graduating with a degree in Economics from Lakehead University with subsequent studies in journalism, and stress and wellness, her education enhanced her experience as a writer, editor, parliamentary assistant, and literacy instructor. But most of all, her past experiences provided the catalyst for her own successful business as a certified Stress and Wellness Consultant. Owning a business in northern Ontario has provided Barbara with first-hand insight into the benefits, challenges, and rewards of working with people so they can reach their goals, and in operating a business in this vast and diverse region.

PARO has been an integral part of the development of Barbara's business and career. As a successful graduate of the Gateway program, a 4<sup>th</sup> Gear Graduate of the Accelerator program, and a founding member of Face-to-Face Peer Circle, Barbara went on to serve on the board of directors. All this experience provides a base of understanding as to why and how the **PARO programs work!**