

## Official opening - Pierre Berton Heritage Centre

*Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018*

*Official Ceremony Start | 11 a.m.*

*10418 Islington Ave., Kleinburg*

### NEW CITY FACILITY

- The Pierre Berton Heritage Centre is the City's newest renovated and accessible community-use facility, located on the main street of Kleinburg. It is the site of the former Kleinburg United Church.
- The two-storey building houses a permanent exhibit on Canada's national story told through one of Canada's distinguished authors, media pioneers and long-time resident of Kleinburg – the late Pierre Berton (1920-2004).

### RENOVATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT TEAM

City of Vaughan **Infrastructure Delivery** department managed the overall renovation and restoration of the building (former Kleinburg United Church).

### RENOVATION AND RESTORATION TEAM, INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY

- Jack Graziosi, Director, Infrastructure Delivery
- Adriana Tantalo, Project Manager, Design and Construction (Buildings)
- Wei Chiao - Manager, Design and Construction (Buildings)
- Steven Comisso, Lynch + Comisso, Prime Design Consultant
- Jennifer Anderson, Lynch + Comisso, Prime Design Consultant
- Raafat Sarhan, Project Manager, Dasd Contracting Inc., General Contractor  
*Dasd Project Team - Sam Tsangaris (President), Terry Hamlyn (Site Supervisor)*

### RECREATION SERVICES/FACILITY SERVICES (EXHIBIT AND FACILITY) PROJECT TEAM

City of Vaughan **Recreation Services** led the exhibit project with close collaboration of the Council appointed

### PIERRE BERTON TASK FORCE

### EXHIBIT/FACILITY PROJECT TEAM

- Sunny Bains, Director, Recreation Services
- Dave Merriman, Director, Facility Services
- Angela Palermo, Recreation Manager, Community Development and Planning
- Andre Bregolin, Supervisor of Corporate Security, Facility Services
- Stephen Petri, Principal, Reich + Petch, International Design (Exhibit Designers)  
*Reich+ Petch Team -Christine Lockett, Vian Musa, Heather Aitken, Gonzalo Martinez, Molly Montgomery*

- Raafat Sarhan, Project Manager, Dasd Contracting Inc., Exhibit Production and Installation Contractors

## **PIERRE BERTON CENTRE TASK FORCE MEMBERS 2014-18 COUNCIL-APPOINTED TASK FORCE WHO PROVIDED SUPPORT AND DIRECTION ON THE EXHIBIT**

- Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor, Mario Ferri, Task Force Chair
- Councillor Marilyn Iafrate, Ward 1
- Peter Berton
- David Rutherford, Vice Chair
- Scott Somerville
- Berton Woodward

## **BACKGROUND OF PROJECT**

In 2006, the City of Vaughan embarked on a project to look at the potential to develop a centre dedicated to Canadian history as written and celebrated by Canadian icon, Pierre Berton – a long-time resident of Kleinburg.

Since 2006, the City has established several Committees and Task Forces made up of Council and community members to guide and support this project.

In 2010, the City purchased the former Kleinburg United Church site at 10418 Islington Ave. with the intention of developing some tribute to the late Pierre Berton.

Since 2016, the City has been working with architectural and exhibit consultants to renovate and restore the heritage building for public use as well as produce a small exhibit dedicated to telling the history of Canada through the writings of Pierre Berton.

## **FACILITY RESTORATION AND AMENITIES**

The former Kleinburg United Church building, now the Pierre Berton Heritage Centre, was built in 1926 in the Gothic Revival style. The main floor and basement of the former Kleinburg United Church, totaling approximately 3,600 square feet, has been converted into a fully accessible, community-use facility.

Restoration and renovation work began in October, 2017. Since then, the building has been made accessible with the addition of a main entrance ramp, automatic door openers, a universal washroom and an interior lift. The main floor, which houses the permanent exhibit, has been designed to be multi-functional and can be used for programs, meetings, events and presentations.

The exterior restoration and renovation of the main floor was thoughtfully designed to retain the historic character of the original building. Careful restoration of the exterior masonry, stained glass windows, and interior wood paneling (ceiling, flooring, wainscoting) maintains the original heritage features of the building, while new modern lighting, entrances, washrooms, and basement and kitchenette finishes provide updated amenities for permitted public use.

Large interior TV screens and updated technology, including Wi-Fi, make the space excellent for public events, presentations and programming.

A new basement walk-out provides access to an outdoor patio surrounded by lush trees and landscaping at the rear of the property.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF PIERRE BERTON

The late Pierre Berton (1920-2004) was raised in the Yukon in the Klondike mining camps. He spent several years in the Canadian Army during the Second World War as a captain/instructor at the Royal Military College in Kingston.

At 21, he spent his early newspaper career in Vancouver, where he was the youngest city editor on any Canadian daily. He moved to Toronto in 1947, and at the age of 31 was named managing editor of Maclean's, Canada's largest magazine.

In 1950, he and his wife Janet Berton moved to Kleinburg where they were greatly involved in the local community, including the Binder Twine Festival.

In 1957, he became a key member of the CBC's public affairs flagship program, *Close-Up*, and was a permanent member panelist on *Front Page Challenge*, which ran for 38 years. He joined the Toronto Star as associate editor and columnist in 1958, leaving in 1962 to commence his own television program, *The Pierre Berton Show*, which ran until 1973. Since then he appeared as host and writer on *My Country*, *The Great Debate*, *Heritage Theatre*, and *The Secret of My Success*.

Pierre Berton has worked in all branches of communication. He has written revue sketches for the stage, plays for radio, documentaries for radio, films and television. A daily newspaper column, a musical comedy for the stage, and 50 books, published internationally.

He was the recipient of three Governor General's Awards for creative non-fiction. He held two National Newspaper Awards, and two ACTRA "Nellies" for broadcasting. He was a Companion of the Order of Canada and a member of the Canadian News Hall of Fame.

Pierre Berton, died Tuesday Nov. 30, 2004 at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. He was 84 years old.

## LIST OF PUBLISHED MATERIAL

- 1954 *The Golden Trail: The Story of the Klondike Rush*
- 1954 *The Royal Family*
- 1955 *The Golden Trail*
- 1956 *The Mysterious North: Encounters with the Canadian Frontier, 1947-54*
- 1958 *Klondike: The Last Great Gold Rush, 1896-99*
- 1959 *The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush*
- 1959 *Just Add Water and Stir*
- 1960 *Adventures of a Columnist*
- 1961 [\*The Secret World of Og\*](#)

# Backgrounder

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- 1961 *The New City: A Prejudiced View of Toronto*
- 1962 *Fast, Fast, Fast Relief*
- 1963 *The Big Sell: An Introduction to the Black Arts of Door-to Door Salesmanship and Other Techniques*
- 1965 *My War with the Twentieth Century*
- 1965 *The Comfortable Pew: A Critical look at Christianity and the Religious Establishment in the New Age*
- 1966 *The Cool, Crazy, Committed World of the Sixties*
- 1967 *Voices from the Sixties*
- 1968 *The Smug Minority*
- 1970 [\*The National Dream: The Great Railway, 1871–1881\*](#)
- 1972 [\*The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881–1885\*](#)
- 1972 *The Impossible Railway: The Building of the Canadian Pacific*
- 1973 *Drifting Home*
- 1975 *Hollywood's Canada: The Americanization of the National Image*
- 1976 *My Country: The Remarkable Past*
- 1977 *The Dionne Years: A Thirties Melodrama*
- 1978 *The Wild Frontier: More Tales from the Remarkable Past*
- 1980 [\*The Invasion of Canada: 1812–1813\*](#)
- 1981 *Flames Across the Border: 1813–14*
- 1982 *Why we Act like Canadians: A Personal Exploration of our National Character*
- 1983 *The Klondike Quest*
- 1984 *The Promised Land: Settling the West 1896–1914*
- 1985 *Masquerade* (as "Lisa Kroniuk")
- 1985 *Vimy*
- 1987 *Starting out: 1920–47*
- 1988 *The Arctic Grail: The Quest for the North West Passage and the North Pole, 1818–1909*
- 1990 [\*The Great Depression: 1929–1939\*](#)
- 1992 *Niagara: A History of the Falls*
- 1994 *The Battle of Lake Erie*
- 1994 *Winter*
- 1995 *My Times: Living With History, 1917–95*
- 1995 *Attack on Montreal*
- 1996 *The Great Lakes*
- 1996 *Farewell to the Twentieth Century*
- 1997 [\*1967: The Last Good Year\*](#)
- 1999 *Worth Repeating: A Literary Resurrection*
- 2000 *Welcome To The 21st Century: More Absurdities From Our Time*
- 2001 *Marching as to War: Canada's Turbulent Years*
- 2002 *Cats I Have Known and Loved*
- 2003 *The Joy of Writing: A Guide for Writers Disguised as a Literary Memoir*
- 2004 *Prisoners of the North*
- 2005 *For the Love of History: Winners of the Pierre Berton Award Bring to Life Canada's Past*
- History for Young Canadians
  - The Battles of the War of 1812
    - The Capture of Detroit

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- The Death of Isaac Brock
- Revenge of the Tribes
- Canada Under Siege
- The Battle of Lake Erie
- The Death of Tecumseh
- Attack on Montreal
- Exploring the Frozen North
  - Parry of the Arctic
  - Jane Franklin's Obsession
  - Dr. Kane of the Arctic Seas
  - Trapped in the Arctic
- Canada Moves West
  - The Railway Pathfinders
  - The Men in Sheepskin Coats
  - A Prairie Nightmare
  - Steel Across the Plains
  - Steel Across the Shield
- The Great Klondike Gold Rush
  - Bonanza Gold
  - The Klondike Stampede
  - Trails of '98, City of Gold
  - Before the Gold Rush
  - Kings of the Klondike

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**ABOUT VAUGHAN:** The City of Vaughan is one of Canada's fastest growing cities with a population of more than 335,000. Incorporated in 1991, Vaughan includes the communities of Concord, Kleinburg, Maple, Thornhill and Woodbridge. This culturally diverse municipality is located in the heart of York Region and the Greater Toronto Area.