

# *Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association*

P.O. Box 202, Kleinburg, Ontario, L0J 1C0  
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Mr. Abrams  
City of Vaughan Clerk

C 3  
COMMUNICATION  
CW (WORKING SESSION)  
NOVEMBER 13 / 12  
ITEM # - 1

November 12, 2012

Dear Mayor Bevilacqua and Members of Council:

Re: Recommendations of Pierre Berton Artifact and Memorabilia Task Force

I am writing on behalf of the Kleinburg and Area Ratepayers' Association (KARA) to express our full support of the Findings Report and recommendations made and submitted by the Pierre Berton Artifact and Memorabilia Task Force on the development of the proposed Pierre Berton Discovery Centre. We wish to reinforce their recommendations that the PBDC project be approved in principle and that a committee is struck to develop a fundraising strategy for the centre.

Since the inception of the Pierre Berton Artifacts Committee in 2006, KARA has expressed its strong support for this important opportunity for Vaughan to celebrate Canadian history through recognizing the contributions of world-renowned Canadian literary and journalistic icon, Pierre Berton. KARA has had one of our Directors participate in this committee, since its early beginnings. In 2008, KARA asked the Berton Task Force to hold a public consultation process for residents to inform and get feedback about the proposed Centre. In May of 2009, KARA sent a letter to the Artifact Committee (copied to Mayor and Council) to express our strong support for locating the PBDC within Kleinburg, and in November of 2009, another letter to our local Councillor advocating for locating of the centre at the historic United Church site proximate to our village core.

One of the goals of our Association is to undertake and support initiatives that will enliven our historic village cores of Kleinburg and Nashville, and we continue to believe that the PBDC will be of local, provincial and national prominence, and there could be no more suitable a location than the village that Pierre Berton called home. With the PBDC, Vaughan has a unique and rare opportunity to celebrate and share one of 'its own'; much like Orillia has done with the Stephen Leacock National Historic Site or Markham with the Varley Art Gallery/McKay Art Centre.

In 2009, KARA noted the following reasons for our Association's support for the Centre:

1. It will complement the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and will provide another significant anchor for Kleinburg as a Canadian, Ontario and City of

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Vaughan heritage tourism destination. This will increase the numbers of visitors in the village on weekdays and on weekends, helping to revitalize the village core.

2. By increasing the time visitors spend in town, the centre will enliven businesses within the core and help attract successful businesses.
3. It will help preserve and enhance local and Canadian heritage.
4. The Discovery Centre will be a pleasing addition to our Kleinburg streetscape.
5. The centre will provide much-needed space to be utilized by our community groups and clubs.

Our commitment to this project is unwavering.

We recognize that the project will require both capital and ongoing financial investment, and look forward to working with the Fundraising Committee on creative ways to maximize fundraising revenue, and reduce projected costs.

KARA hopes that City Council will carefully evaluate and support the next steps in the process to bring the Pierre Berton Discovery Centre to Kleinburg— one which we believe to be a significant step forward for Vaughan's, Ontario's and Canada's cultural landscape.

Yours sincerely,



Ken Schwenger, President KARA

cc: Mayor and Members of Council, Angela Palermo-City of Vaughan, Marlon Kallideen-Commissioner of Community Services