

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JANUARY 16, 2006**

### **PRESERVATION OF THE PIERRE BERTON ARTEFACTS AND MEMORABILIA INVESTIGATION OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE KLEINBURG COMMUNITY FORMATION OF COMMITTEE**

#### **Recommendation**

Mayor Michael Di Biase recommends that:

1. A Committee be appointed to examine the opportunities for preserving the artefacts and memorabilia from the life of the late Mr. Pierre Berton at a location in the Kleinburg Community;
2. Such Committee be comprised of Mayor Michael Di Biase, City Councillor Peter Meffe, the Berton family and three (3) members from the Kleinburg community;
3. Staff as required be made available to assist the Committee; and
4. A report be prepared for an upcoming Council meeting to confirm the members from the Kleinburg community and the terms of reference for the Committee's operation.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact resulting from the adoption of the recommendations, other than the use of staff time. Should the project proceed further it is expected that there may be financial implications. As such, further Council direction will be required.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to obtain direction to create a committee comprised of Mayor Michael Di Biase, City Councillor Peter Meffe, the Berton family and three (3) members from the Kleinburg community to investigate the opportunities for preserving the artefacts and memorabilia from the life and career of Pierre Berton at a location in Kleinburg.

#### **Background – Analysis and Options**

In late 2004 Mr. Pierre Berton passed away. Mr. Berton was a national icon who helped define the Canadian media scene for almost sixty years. During his career as an author, newspaperman and television and radio personality he reported on the evolution of the country and chronicled our history. In addition to being an outstanding Canadian, Mr. Berton was also our neighbour. The Berton family has lived in Kleinburg for over fifty years.

Mayor Michael Di Biase was contacted by the Berton family to see if there is an opportunity to find a location in Kleinburg where the artefacts and memorabilia from Mr. Berton's life and career could be preserved, stored and displayed. Mr. Berton's writings have been archived at McMaster University in Hamilton. However, there is wealth of other material in the estate, such as photographs, awards and personal furniture and other memorabilia, which illustrate his life and times. Rather than disperse this collection, the family is interested in preserving it at one location, preferably in Kleinburg.

This report is recommending that a committee be struck to investigate the opportunities for locating this collection in Kleinburg. The committee should be comprised of Mayor Michael Di Biase, City Councillor Peter Meffe, the Berton family and three (3) members from the Kleinburg community. Once the membership has been determined and a draft terms of reference has been prepared a follow-up report can be submitted to Council to confirm these actions and obtain any further direction.

It would be expected that the Committee, with the aid of staff, would be responsible for obtaining an understanding of the type of artefacts in the collection and its size, establishing the nature and amount of space that would be required to store and display the material, assessing the location options and determining the best format to display the collection.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with Sections 2.4.2 "Identify and implement innovative new partnerships." and 2.5 "Strengthen the City's diversified economic base" of Vaughan Vision 2007. The necessary resources have not been allocated at this time.

### **Conclusion**

This presents the city with a unique opportunity to help preserve the memory of Mr. Berton through the artefacts and memorabilia of his life and career. In addition, it has the potential to provide Kleinburg with another attraction, dedicated to a prominent Canadian, which can complement the McMichael Canadian Collection. Therefore, it is recommended that Council adopt the recommendations set out above and proceed with establishing the committee.

### **Attachments**

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Michael Di Biase