

**Communications received at the May 7, 2024, Committee of the Whole (1) meeting.**

- C2. Barry Nelson, Heritage Advocate, and Duessa du Plooy, President, Thornhill Historical Society, dated May 3, 2024.
- C4. Valerie Burke, Thornhill Historical Society, Colborne Street, Thornhill, dated May 5, 2024.
- C5. Kailey Sutton, McMillan LLP – presentation material

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [John Britto](mailto:John Britto)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Reiteration of Support for the Designation of 30 Stegman's Mill Road – Emphasizing the Legacy of Pierre Berton  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2024 8:44:25 AM

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**From:** THS Treasurer <treasurer@thornhillhistoric.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 10:07 PM  
**To:** Nick Borcescu <Nick.Borcescu@vaughan.ca>; Clerks@vaughan.ca; Stephanie Ferreira <Stephanie.Ferreira@vaughan.ca>  
**Cc:** president@thornhillhistoric.org; Evelin Ellison <thornhillwardone@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** [External] Reiteration of Support for the Designation of 30 Stegman's Mill Road – Emphasizing the Legacy of Pierre Berton

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To: Todd Coles, City Clerk<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

May 3rd, 2024

CC: Nick R. Borcescu, Senior Heritage Planner; Care of to:  
Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management;  
Katrina Guy, Heritage Coordinator<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Subject: Reiteration of Support for the Designation of 30 Stegman's Mill Road – Emphasizing the Legacy of Pierre Berton

Dear Mr. Coles,

In recognition and support of the previously articulated and professionally crafted work provided by both staff reports, as well as the recommendations of Heritage Vaughan, for the designation of 30 Stegman's Mill Road under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, The Thornhill Historical Society wishes to underscore here, the profound significance of Pierre Berton's legacy as a pivotal factor in our advocacy. The inherent value of the Pierre Berton House transcends its architectural and historical merits, embodying the essence of Canadian identity and cultural introspection, as envisioned by Pierre Berton.

### **Pierre Berton's Vision for Canadian Literature and Heritage**<sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

Pierre Berton's distinguished career was not only a testament to his literary genius but also to his unwavering commitment to fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of Canadian heritage and identity. His works have played a crucial role in broadening the horizons of Canadians, enabling us to view our history and culture through a lens of pride, curiosity, and respect. Berton's desire for future generations of writers to draw inspiration from his residence is emblematic of his dedication to the perpetuation of a uniquely Canadian narrative.

### **The Berton House as a Beacon of Canadian Cultural Identity**

In the context of the current socio-political climate, where Canadian cultural needs and identities are often overshadowed by broader North American trends, the preservation of the Berton House takes on an added significance. It stands as a bastion of Canadian cultural sovereignty, reminding us of the need to cherish and sustain our distinct heritage. The house itself, much like Berton's literary works, invites Canadians to a deeper reflection on what it means to construct and articulate a Canadian identity, particularly in the realm of literature and the arts. Like the Canadian State currently, it requires our concern and investment in rehabilitative action.

### **Addressing Indifference with Cultural Empathy**

The challenges posed by indifference and insensitivity towards our cultural distinctiveness underscore the importance of preserving symbols of our heritage. The Berton House, through its association with Pierre and Janet Berton, serves as a physical and metaphorical space for nurturing a sense of cultural empathy and awareness. By safeguarding and advocating for rehabilitation of this property, we not only honour the Bertons' legacy but also reinforce the value of Canadian stories, perspectives, and identities in shaping our collective consciousness.

### **Conclusion and Appeal for Support**

Therefore, we emphatically reiterate our support for the designation of 30 Stegman's Mill Road, advocating for its conservation as a sanctuary for future writers and as a source of inspiration for all Canadians. The Thornhill Historical Society is keenly aware of the potential of the Berton House to foster a renewed engagement with Canadian heritage and identity, especially in times when such engagement is most needed.

We appeal to the City Council to recognize the intrinsic value of the Berton House in the broader narrative of Canadian culture and to proceed with its designation. In doing so, we commit ourselves to preserving a legacy that has, and will continue to, inspire countless Canadians to explore, understand, and articulate our rich and diverse heritage.

Thank you for considering our perspectives on this matter. We remain committed to contributing to the dialogue surrounding the preservation of our shared cultural heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Nelson  
Heritage Advocate  
The Thornhill Historical Society

Reviewed and Authorized by the THS Board of Directors representing our members.

Duessa du Plooy

President

[president@thornhillhistoric.org](mailto:president@thornhillhistoric.org)

Thornhill Historical Society

[thornhillhistoric.org](http://thornhillhistoric.org)

**From:** [Clerks@vaughan.ca](mailto:Clerks@vaughan.ca)  
**To:** [John Britto](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Item 6.6 Committee of the Whole - 30 Stegman's Road - May 7, 2024  
**Date:** Monday, May 6, 2024 8:26:04 AM

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**From:** Valerie Burke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 5, 2024 8:46 PM  
**To:** Clerks@vaughan.ca  
**Cc:** Nick Borcescu <Nick.Borcescu@vaughan.ca>; Katrina Guy <Katrina.Guy@vaughan.ca>; Haiqing Xu <Haiqing.Xu@vaughan.ca>  
**Subject:** [External] Item 6.6 Committee of the Whole - 30 Stegman's Road - May 7, 2024

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To: Todd Coles, City Clerk<sup>[SEP]</sup>

CC: Nick R. Borcescu, Senior Heritage Planner;  
Haiqing Xu, Deputy City Manager, Planning and Growth Management

Katrina Guy, Heritage Coordinator

Re: Committee of the Whole - Item 6.6 - Notice of Objection To The Notice of Intent to Designate 30 Stegman's Road Under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act

I strongly support staff's recommendation to designate 30 Stegman's Road, former home of Pierre and Janet Berton, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act!

The designation of this property meets the policies of the Vaughan Official Plan and the objectives and required criteria outlined in the Ontario Heritage Act by the Province of Ontario Regulation 9/0. The Statement of Cultural Heritage Value demonstrates that this significant property has physical, associated, and contextual cultural heritage value.

Pierre Berton is among Canada's best-known writers, an iconic Canadian. He was particularly well regarded as a serious popularizer of Canadian History.

As the report indicates "Staff identified a number of programs including apprenticeship and specialized trades workshops, seminars, and other curricula that could make use of the present condition of the site to provide hands-on didactic restoration and conservation activities on site, at no cost to the owner(s) and for the responsible stewardship of this heritage resource."

Please designate this property. Protect an extraordinary Canadian cultural asset for present and future generations.

Sincerely  
Valerie Burke

C 5  
Communication  
CW(1) – May 7, 2024  
Item No. 6























**Vaughan Fire & Rescue Service**  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario L6A 1T1  
Tel 905-832-8585 x6301  
Fire Chief Larry Bentley  
Email: [larry.bentley@vaughan.ca](mailto:larry.bentley@vaughan.ca)



June 18, 2015

Susan Niczowski • PRESIDENT  
334 Rowntree Dairy Road,  
Woodbridge, ON L4L 8H2

Susan,

**Re: Demolition Permit Inspection**

In response to your request for a demolition permit inspection of two structures in Kleinburg located at 56 Windrush Road and 30 Stegman's Mill Road, Vaughan Fire and Resce have inspected both locations and report the following:

**56 Windrush Road:**

The building appears to be unoccupied and is in a state of disrepair. Numerous windows are broken and there is evidence of illegal entry by trespassers for the purpose of alcohol and possible drug use. During the inspection, there was aslo evidence of smoking materials in the structure. The basement has approximately 30cm of standing water. Abandoned structures create a safety risk to the persons using the structure for parties, fire hazard to the community, the neighboring residences and firefighting staff.

**30 Stegman's Mill Road:**

The building appears to be unoccupied and in a state of disrepair. Numerous windows are broken and there is evidence of illegal entry by trespassers for the purpose of alcohol and possible drug use. During the inspection, it appeared somebody has been using a barbeque starter fluid in the fire place. Abandoned structures create a safety risk to the persons using the structure for parties, fire hazard to the community, the neighboring residences and firefighting staff.

It is the opinion of the VFRS that both abandoned properties present a fire hazard to the community.

At the conclusion of our inspection, the Captain advised the property owner of their responsibility to ensure the property is secured and to check the sites regularly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Bentley'.

Larry Bentley  
Fire Chief



**30 Stegman's Mill Rd**  
Vaughan, Ontario

Google Street View

Jul 2022 [See more dates](#)











30

WARNING  
DO NOT  
ENTER  
PRIVATE PROPERTY  
WITHOUT PERMISSION

