

OBITUARIES / DÉCÈS

Pierre Berton, 1920-2004, By Alastair Sweeny

Canadian author and broadcaster Pierre Berton died today of heart failure in Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto. He was 84. A journalist, historian and broadcaster, Berton was born at Whitehorse, Yukon Territory July 12, 1920, where his father worked as a government mining recorder; raised in Dawson City; 1932 his family moved to Victoria after the Depression forced Frank Berton to retire on half pension of \$48 a month; 1937 attended Victoria College, then switched to the University of British Columbia so that he could write for the student newspaper, the *Ubysey*; worked in Klondike mining camps during his university years at UBC; spent four years in the army, rising from private to captain/instructor at Royal Military College, Kingston; 1942 worked on the *Vancouver News-Herald* (at 21 he was the youngest city editor on any Canadian daily); 1945-47 at the *Vancouver Sun*; 1946 married fellow journalist Janet Walker (they raised 8 children); 1947 moved to Toronto; 1951 managing editor of *Maclean's magazine*; 1957 joined CBC's public affairs program, *Close-Up*, and became a panelist on *Front Page Challenge*; 1958 joined *The Toronto Star* as associate editor and columnist; 1962 left to host *The Pierre Berton Show* (until 1973); has appeared as host and writer on *My Country*, *The Great Debate*, *Heritage Theatre*, and *The Secret of My Success*. Berton wrote 77 books; histories include *Klondike* (1958); *The National Dream* (1970) and *The Last Spike* (1971), *The Dionne Years* (1977), *The Invasion of Canada* (1980), *Flames Across the Border* (1981), *The Promised Land* (1984) and *Vimy* (1986). Other books include *The Comfortable Pew* (1965); *The Smug Minority* (1968); *My Country* (1976), *The Wild Frontier* (1978), *Hollywood's Canada* (1975), *Drifting Home* (1973), *Starting Out* (1987), *Winter* (1994) and the children's book *The Secret World of Og*. Berton received three Governor General's awards, and was made a companion of the Order of



Canada in 1986. In 1959 he received the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour. Canada's National History Society established the Pierre Berton Award in 1994 for distinguished achievement in popularizing Canadian history.

"We are a nation of canoeists, and have been since the earliest days, paddling our way up the St. Lawrence, across the lakes, over the portages of the shield, west along the North Saskatchewan through the Yellowhead gap and thence south-west by the Columbia and Fraser rivers to the sea. When someone asks you how Canada could exist as a horizontal country with its plains and mountains running vertically, tell him about the paddlers." – *Why We Act Like Canadians*, Pierre Berton, 1982

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DR. PAUL CORNELL E.D., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.H. 1918 - 2004
At Village of Winston Park, on Friday, October 22, 2004, at age 86. Paul Cornell had a long, distinguished career including the following appointments: Professor Emeritus, University of Waterloo 1994; Professor of History, 1960-85; Chairman, Dept. of History 1960-68; Dean, Faculty of Arts 1970-73; Acting Vice President (Acad.) 1972; Hon. Archivist, University of Waterloo 1977-85; Lectr.- Prof., Dept. of History, Acadia University, 1949-60; co-author *Canada: Unity in Diversity* 1967. Paul Cornell was member of the CHA since 1950.