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## The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder *An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*

### Press Release

## Legacy of Pierre Berton Was Inspirational for New Kid's Book Series on Canada's PMs

### *Historical Fiction series kicks off with Diefenbaker*



Toronto, August 11, 2009:

A new historical fiction book featuring the early life of John Diefenbaker kicks off an ambitious new series on the prime ministers by Fireside Publishing House. *The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder: An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*, written by Roderick Bennis, is geared for ages 10 and up. The historical fiction novel is set 100 years ago in Saskatchewan, when Diefenbaker was 12 years old.

Yukon's own Pierre Berton was one of the key inspirations for the series, according to the book's author, Roderick Bennis. "Pierre Berton popularized history with adults in a profound way. If we can do a tenth of what he did for Canadian kids – showing them how wonderful our own country's stories can be – it will be a worthwhile endeavour," said Bennis.

While the storyline is fiction – and therefore differs from Berton's approach – the environment in which young John Diefenbaker lived, his family life dynamics, his belief system and the foreshadowing of his professional life are all real. The author says this can be effective for children.

"Historical fiction provides an enriched understanding of the time period. It's a great entry point into our collective stories as a nation."

Strong support is expected from many parents and grandparents who feel a high degree of urgency in encouraging young people to appreciate Canadian history.

Visit [www.roderickbennis.com](http://www.roderickbennis.com) for more details and a complete media room, including images. To order an autographed copy of the book, visit [www.firesidepublishinghouse.com](http://www.firesidepublishinghouse.com)

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